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COLUMN 10

Iana hits back  
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DON (AFP) — Prince

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In a rare interview,

the Daily Mail there

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Oliver Hoare, who

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News Of The Wo

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Ritz bar

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(AFP) — Fifty year

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Japan (AP) — The

Algerian socialist party Tues

day rejected appeals to join

the military

government and five

opposition parties on

the country's future. The So

Socialist Forces Front said it did not

trust President Liamine

Zeroual's government to

back the democratic parties in

the talks. Mr. Zeroual on

Monday invited the five

opposition parties taking part

in talks to meet leaders of the

banned Islamic Salvation

Front (FIS) in prison to per

suade them to give up the

armed struggle against his

regime and accept talks (see

page 12).

Iraq invites team to check for prisoners

JAKARTA (R) — Iraq has asked Indonesia's President

Salaho to form an interna

team to investigate

claims that Baghdad is hold

ing 600 Kuwaiti capti

the official Antara news agency

said on Tuesday. The invitation

was addressed to Mr.

Salaho in his capacity as

head of the Non-Aligned

Movement (NAM). Iraq has

been accused of capturing the

Kuwaitis during its 1990-1991

occupation of Kuwait but has

long denied the claim.

Members of the fact-finding

team should represent Arab

countries, Asia, Europe,

Africa, South America and

Russia." Indonesia's special

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visitors from Ameri

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Former Japanese

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talks late last month.

The commitment, which

was made when the PLO and

Israel recognised each other

in September in the run-up to

the signing of the landmark

accord of Palestinian auton

omy, was renewed by Mr.

Arafat during a June meeting

with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Paris.

PLO sources have said that

any Israeli redeployment of

forces from the West Bank

and Palestinian elections to a

self-rule council as part of the

autonomy accord was contin

gent on amendments to the

charter.

Informed PLO sources said

many other members of the

PNC did not sign the state

ment because they did

not want to be seen as offi

cally associated with the

opposition."

Other signatories included

members of the Palestine

Central Council, former

members of the PLO Execu

tive Committee, union lea

ders, heads of PLO factions

opposed to the Israeli-PLO

autonomy deal and independ

ent Palestinian activists.

The statement issued here re

jects Mr. Arafat's call and declar

ations that Mr. Arafat no longer

had any authority to act on

behalf of the Palestinian peo

ple.

They would not attend such a meeting," said the source.

"But they are willing to

attend a PNC meeting if

convened outside the Palesti

nian territories in any Arab

country where a total reassess

ment of the present

Palestinian situation could be

made and suitable decisions

could be taken."

The statement issued here

on Tuesday said:

"The agreements that Yas

ser Arafat reached with the

agreement that Yas

ser Arafat reached with the

## Palestinian authority faces test in preventing blood feuds

**RAFAH (AFP)** — Faithful to bedouin tradition, the family of a 16-year-old boy recently killed in a clash with Palestinian police initially refused to bury his body.

Only after senior Palestinian officials promised a speedy investigation did the elders take possession of Saleh Al Shaer's body, instead of first killing a member of another bedouin family in revenge.

In its first serious test case, the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) may face a tough task in enforcing the law and preventing blood feuds among families tied to ancient traditions.

Shaer was killed Saturday night after police stopped a group of youngsters during a search for criminals. A fight broke out and the police fired in the air at random, fatally wounding the teenager.

Palestinian police said he was killed in self-defense, and the seven policemen involved are now under investigation, said Prosecutor General Khaled Al Qudra.

"It's true that tribal traditions are important," Mr. Qudra said.

"But the people also have faith in the law."

Under the pre-1967 Egyptian law in force in the autonomous Gaza Strip the death penalty can be applied for premeditated murder.

Mohammad Al Shaer, an uncle of the dead teenager, argued that it would be "impossible to make peace with the guilty family."

"We now have a pact, a waiting period until the guilty

person is executed according to Islam and our law."

"The killer must be executed, or people will start shooting and taking the law into their own hands," he warned.

It was not the custom among the bedouin to bury the body "until someone, anyone, from the guilty family has been killed," he explained.

The tradition of blood feuds was suspended during the 27-year Israeli occupation to avoid internal strife and undermining Palestinian resistance.

"Our young activists used to mask their faces and warn people not to shed blood, and we used to reconcile opposing families."

"But that has finished now. We have our national authority and we want a public trial and public execution," Mohammad Al Shaer said.

The Shaer family claims to have 40,000 members in Gaza and its nomadic lineage goes back a long way.

They settled in Rafah and became urbanized but still return to their old customs.

Their influence in Rafah was evident when more than 1,200 people turned up at a young Shaer's funeral Monday, including senior police and intelligence officers.

There were angry scenes Sunday when hundreds of people marched on the house of the Palestinian policeman they believed shot the youth.

The family of 1st Lieutenant Musa Abu Samahdana, who is being held for questioning in the case, also has a bedouin background.

Although much fewer in number than the Shaer, the Abu Samahdanahs have a reputation for toughness, acquired during the intifada.

They executed more than 30 alleged collaborators with Israel, according to witnesses.

At least three of the family members, including Musa, are now in the Palestinian police and intelligence forces.

Both families trade accusations of drug dealing, prostitution and collaboration with Israel, according to witnesses.

"During the intifada, our family was in charge of safeguarding morals here," said Suleiman Abu Samahdana, a brother of Musa.

In the name of Fateh Hawks, loyal to Yasser Arafat, "we used to beat some people, put them under house arrest and kill them if necessary," he said, adding that many of those "punished" were from the Shaer family.

But Abu Samahdana laughed off any possibility of vendetta killings.

"We never killed on a personal level, always as Fateh Hawks."

If everyone takes revenge on us for the killings, there will be no more Abu Samahdanahs left."

He insisted his brother Musa was innocent.

"If there is an open trial and enough evidence to implicate him, we will accept the court's decision.

"But if they pass a sentence just to satisfy the Shaer family, we will reject it," he said.

## Fearing Third World deluge, Israel rethinks liberal immigration

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — Fear that millions of people will try to escape the poverty of Africa, Asia and Latin America by claiming Jewish ancestry to immigrate to Israel is sparking a reassessment of the country's liberal immigration laws.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin called for amending the "law of return" that allows any applicant with one Jewish grandparent instant citizenship, Israel Radio reported Monday.

Mr. Beilin, who was visiting Copenhagen, was quoted as saying the law — passed in 1948 when the Jewish state was destitute and not a potential draw for non-Jews — is too liberal now that Israel is a relatively wealthy, industrialized country.

Mr. Beilin's proposal won swift support from Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a religious legislator, who said he would fight to amend the law.

"When you have today such misery in Asia and Africa and all kinds of world-savers want to bring to our small and fragile state millions who are not Jews... I am definitely for changing the law of return," Mr. Ravitz told Israel Radio.

The assault on the law, passed in 1948, appears to have been sparked by recent reports that up to 300 million Indians could claim links to the ancient tribe of Menasse.

Israel's immigration minister last week termed the Indian tribe "a curiosity" and advised its members to wait for the Messiah before applying to immi-

grate. But Israel might have inadvertently created a precedent by allowing some 60 of its members in as tourists during the last two years. They remained as immigrants after agreeing to Israeli rabbis' demands they undergo a strict conversion to Judaism.

According to reports, hundreds of thousands of Indians have approached the Israeli embassy in New Delhi for applications.

In a statement faxed to the Associated Press Monday, the embassy of India in Israel denounced the reports as "sheer exaggeration."

But potential immigrants of debatable Jewishness are found across the globe.

There are reports up to a third of the 600,000 former Soviet citizens who Israel has been struggling to absorb over the past four years are not Jewish.

There are also nearly 20,000 former Ethiopians among the new arrivals, whose difficult adjustment to modern life has sparked unease about a possible onslaught of immigrants from the Third World that could far outnumber Israel's population of 5.4 million.

There is disagreement over whether to accept hundreds of thousands of distant relatives of the Ethiopian Jews who are Christian but also claim Jewish roots or immigration rights on the basis of family reunification.

In Peru, one rabbi has discovered a tribe of apparently native Americans also claiming Jewish roots.

"Imagine that now some

reform rabbis now go to Rwanda and instantly convert a million people," Mr. Ravitz said, referring to the relatively liberal religious conversion policies of the reform branch of Judaism.

Although Israel has a virtual monopoly of the more conservative Orthodox stream, the "law of return" recognises reform conversions as well.

Social commentator Zeev Chafetz argued that Israel should cancel the "law of return" but grant Jews preference on a case-by-case basis, excluding "bogus or tangential Jewish credentials."

Rantisi's trial delayed

**EREZ (AFP)** — The trial of an alleged Hamas activist was adjourned for the sixth time Tuesday after Palestinian prosecution witnesses failed to attend an Israeli military court held here.

Sources said the court may have to drop charges against Abdul Aziz Rantisi, accused of anti-Israeli activities, if the Palestinian prosecution witnesses who live in Gaza fail to appear.

Under the May 4 autonomy accord Israel does not have the right to force residents from the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho to appear in court.

Presiding Judge Colonel Moshe Matalon adjourned by Dr. Rantisi's trial for four weeks, but refused a defense request for his release on bail saying it should be put in writing.

On the May 4 autonomy accord Israel does not have the right to force residents from the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho to appear in court.

Relations between the neighbouring countries began souring during the 1990 Gulf crisis, in which Sudan backed Iraq while Egypt participated in the U.S.-led coalition that liberated Kuwait.

Reports of new clashes at the weekend among the top two factions and Islamic militants underscored the tenuous hold of the local government, a power-sharing deal between the (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The parties said on June 23 they had resolved their dispute after talks in Paris, but Mr. Dizayee reported more sporadic fighting.



LEBANON-CYPRUS TIES: Cyprus Foreign Minister Alekios Michaelides (left) shakes the second day of his official visit to Lebanon hands with Lebanese President (AFP photo)

## Diplomats in dark in Egypt-Sudan dispute

**CAIRO (AP)** — Sudanese and Egyptian diplomats have a dim view of each other these days. Cutting electricity to each other's embassy has become the latest tactic in a diplomatic battle.

Diplomats on both sides also reported that they have no running water and few telephone lines.

The utility duel is the latest episode in the deepening rift between Egypt and Sudan that involves a land dispute along with allegations of terrorism and mistreatment of prisoners.

Sudan's embassy in Cairo has been without electricity and water since last Thursday, diplomats told the Associated Press as they sat in their hot, dark quarters.

"This is an escalation and retaliation," said Ibrahim Matar, the Sudanese consul. "We have a problem."

The telephone operator at Egypt's embassy in the Sudanese capital Khartoum said the building had been without light and water since Sunday.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said that electricity and water also had been cut to Egypt's defence office in Khartoum.

In recent weeks, both sides have filed formal protests about diplomats being roughed up on the streets.

And Cairo has complained that Sudan has confiscated a number of rest houses used by agricultural teams, homes used by teachers and the Egyptians' social club in Khartoum.

Hassan Gad Al Haq, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan who currently is here on holiday, called for an end to the tit-for-tat incidents.

"If there were any differences between the two countries, they should be solved within a framework of understanding," Mr. Haq said. "We should solve our problems in a civilised manner."

He said there were no plans to reduce Egypt's diplomatic presence in Sudan and added that a planned Egypt-Sudan soccer match would be held as scheduled Sept. 5 in Khartoum.

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The parties said on June 23 they had resolved their dispute after talks in Paris, but Mr. Dizayee reported more sporadic fighting.

## Freed prisoners see Jericho as new jail

**JERICHO (AP)** — The self-rule enclave of Jericho in the West Bank may hold out the promise of freedom for some, but for one group of Palestinians released by Israel, Jericho has come to resemble a new prison.

Abdul Jabbar Abmad Daud was freed from Israeli detention last week, but he is still unhappy.

"It feels like being transferred from one cell to another bigger one. I don't feel the joy of liberation," Mr. Abmad Jabbar explained, pacing up and down the school yard serving as the former prisoners' new home.

He was among 250 detainees released on condition that they completed their sentences inside the 52-square-kilometre self-rule area.

"My family came to visit yesterday, but they went back to Hebron soon after. We hardly have enough room ourselves to sleep here," he said.

Another former prisoner, Fathi Gaith, complained that up to 15 were sleeping to one room, "in suffocating heat."

Lacking privacy, the former prisoners have found that the school yard is the most practical place to meet their families.

Defying the overcrowding, Um Mahmud, wife of Kamel Kamhawi, spent the night in the school yard with her five children so as to be close to her 45-year-old husband.

"Our joy is not complete since my husband cannot go home to Nablus, another West Bank town," she said.

But she acknowledged that the Palestinian Authority was treating the prisoners' families well during their stay, giving them food and mattresses.

At the entrance to the school an armed Palestinian guard takes the papers of visitors and returns them when they leave.

Most of those formerly held in Israeli jails were charged with killing suspected Palestinian collaborators, and the authorities want to prevent revenge attacks by the victims' families.

**Red tape and tension hamper Kurdish rule**

**ANKARA (R)** — Tension between feuding factions in northern Iraq and bureaucratic red tape in the de-facto Kurdish government have led to deep fissures in the local administration, spokesmen say.

Mr. Dizayee said Iraqi Kurds looked to elections, due in May, for a realistic shift in power and a more streamlined government.

The PUK's Ankara spokesman denied the system had collapsed.

"The system is not so fine," said Sbazad Saib.

"There are unsolved problems. But it has not collapsed — I deny that. If both parties are very sincere this can work."

Kurds took control of much of northern Iraq after Western forces provided protection following the 1991 Gulf war. In 1992 they held elections, setting up a regional government with the PDK and the PUK sharing power.

But the last two years have witnessed much strife between the two groups in power as well as Muslim militant factions.

The parties said on June 23 they had resolved their dispute after talks in Paris, but Mr. Dizayee reported more sporadic fighting.

## Bethlehem to have first Palestinian Christmas

**BETHLEHEM (AP)** — Palestinians will be in charge of Christmas celebrations in the city where Jesus was born for the first time this year, the Israeli and Palestinian tourism ministers said Monday.

"This Christmas will be under the Palestinian authority," Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baran told reporters after meeting with Elias Freij, who doubles as Palestinian tourism minister and mayor of Bethlehem.

"We would like to celebrate Christmas this year under the flag of peace," Mr. Freij joined in. He added that he was considering inviting world leaders to Bethlehem for the event.

It would be a sharp contrast to recent years, when Mr. Freij led efforts each year between 1987 and 1992 to shut the city of 30,000 down at Christmas because of the Palestinian uprising, and Israel's tourism ministry did its best to bring in Christian pilgrims.

Mr. Baran said that the Palestinians would have control of tourism as part of the "early empowerment" of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord during which Palestinian authority will extend from the self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and

Jericho into the rest of the West Bank.

The Palestinians are due to assume control of education throughout the West Bank this week, and Israeli and Palestinian teams in Cairo were working out transferring responsibility for tourism, health and welfare to the Palestinians by the end of the year.

The final stage will be the transfer of police powers to major West Bank population centres to the Palestinians, due to take place in 1995.

Mr. Freij said that tourism will be a major source of income for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Baran said that a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee would meet next week in order to coordinate Bethlehem Christmas celebrations.

"We have to work together on promotion, marketing and infrastructure," he said. "We must do things in order to improve and to change the celebrations in Bethlehem."

Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have already joined in planning joint regional ventures, and Israel signed a tourism agreement with Jordan last week.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanon's Maronite cleric buried

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Maronite Catholic Cardinal Antonius Butros Khreis was buried Monday, eulogised as a man who sought to stifle the sectarian divisions that caused the 1975-90 civil war. Khreis, Lebanon's highest-ranking Maronite cleric, died Friday of natural causes aged 87. He was the only cleric with a Vatican-bestowed cardinal's rank among the one million-strong Maronite community.

Lebanon's largest Christian sect, Khreis reigned as patriarch of Antioch and the entire Orient during the first 10 years of the war, in which the majority Muslims rebelled against the Maronite's dominance of power. About 150,000 people perished in the conflict, which ended with equal apportioning of power between Muslims and Christians under an Arab League-brokered accord. Patriarch Nasrallah Steir, who succeeded Khreis as head of the Maronite Church in 1985, led the prayers and funeral procession Monday at Bikirri, the traditional hilltop seat of Maronite patriarchs north of Beirut. President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim, attended the funeral along with scores of cabinet ministers.

**S. Arabia to set up ties in East Europe**</p

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Mr. Freij said it  
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"We want to be a  
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he said.  
Mr. Baram said the  
Israeli-Palestinian  
would meet next  
order to coordinate  
lehem Christmas.

"We have to work  
on promotion, market  
infrastructure," he said.  
must do things in  
improve and to  
celebrations in Beth  
Israeli, Jordanian  
Palestinian businesses  
already joined in a  
joint regional venture.  
Israel signed a joint  
memorandum with Jordan

Dr. Baram said his  
ministry will provide every possible  
support to the Palestinian  
authority to help it develop  
tourist sites and facilities.

Mr. Ismail handed a message  
to Dr. Adwan from  
Elias Freij, the Minister of  
Tourism in the Palestinian  
authorities.

Also Tuesday, represen-  
tatives of the Jordanian Travel  
and Tour Agents Society and  
the Higher Council for  
the Dead Sea area, noting that  
there is a three-year plan to  
develop the ancient city of  
Petra.

Society President Nicola  
Sabanech said that time was  
ripe for coordinating tourism  
activities between the sides,  
particularly in unifying laws  
and statutes and preparing

sector to be tackled in the  
peace process and stressed  
the importance of coordination  
between the two sides in  
countering the grave challenges  
facing the region so as  
not to turn the tourism mar-  
ket on both banks of the  
Jordan River into a marginal  
one.

"We hope that this meet-  
ing will acquaint us with the  
touristic attractions in Jordan  
and the Palestinian self-rule  
areas and will help us to  
exploit them in the optimal  
manner through preparing  
policies to market these  
attractions abroad," said Dr. Ayyash.

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that tourism  
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THE RAILWAY

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7-10 pm to 10 pm

## Mexican elections tainted by irregularities, observers say

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexican and foreign observers said vote fraud and irregularities, especially in rural areas, tainted Ernesto Zedillo's apparent presidential victory.

A coalition of some 380 non-partisan Mexican organizations monitoring the vote said there were "serious irregularities" in a substantial number of polling places.

"Mr. Zedillo won the election. However, we have elements to suspect how he won the election," said Sergio Aguayo, a leader of Civic Alliance, Mexico's largest electoral monitoring coalition.

Election workers permitted people to vote more than once in nine per cent of the polls, according alliance observers at 731 polls, Mr. Aguayo said. In 8 per cent of the polls, indelible ink designed to prevent multiple voting was in fact removable.

But a monitoring group from Emory University in the United States said the violations recorded by their 80 observers throughout Mexico were unlikely to have affected the overall result.

Mr. Zedillo's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, has ruled Mexico for the last 65 years.

Smaller U.S. monitoring missions focused on rural areas.

Katherine Kilbourn, of Grassroots International, reported "an incredible amount of fraud" in several towns in the southern state of Oaxaca.

"PRI people were standing there telling people how to vote, showing them how to mark the ballot, and some-

times marking it for them," she said.

U.S. lawyers from the Independent Global Exchange Organisation told reporters Monday of an atmosphere of fear prevailing in some rural areas.

"Many voters in Chiapas, for example, are still convinced that their vote can be monitored by the ruling party," said U.S. lawyer Peter Brown.

The PRI is widely believed to have used fraud throughout its years in power. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, candidate for the Democratic Revolution Party, claims an unexplained election-night computer crash robbed him of victory in 1988.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas De Gortari, who was barred from running for another term, invited hundreds of foreign observers, including many U.S. businessmen and politicians, to demonstrate the fairness of this year's elections.

But in a Mexico City district, members of the Democratic Assembly for Effective Suffrage detained two men as they tried to leave the local Electoral Commission Office at about 1:30 a.m. local time.

"They were carrying a box from the polling place," assembly members Luis Amadeo said. "When we asked them where they were going with it, they started to run."

Mr. Amadeo said he and other assembly members caught up with the men and surrounded them. Police arrived, he said, but waited three hours before they arrested the men.

## N. Korea on alert over anti-Kim protest — report

**SEOUL (Agencies)** — South Korea's domestic news agency Yonhap said Tuesday that leaflets calling for the overthrow of North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-II have been scattered around foreign missions in Pyongyang.

Yonhap quoted an unnamed Western diplomatic source in Seoul as saying North Korean authorities had been on special alert since the incident Friday night.

There was no independent confirmation and a South Korean government spokesman had no information about the report.

The source was quoted as saying the leaflets might have been distributed by those opposing Kim Jong-II's succession of power from his father Kim Il-Sung, who died on July 8.

The leaflets read "down with Kim Jong-II" and were scattered all over the diplomatic compound in the Northern capital, the source was quoted as saying.

He said it was possible those responsible for distributing them were from the privileged class because access to the compound was restricted.

Yonhap quoted the source as saying the incident might be related to a North Korean radio commentary Sunday which hinted at opposition to the takeover by Kim Jong-II.

The commentary, broadcast by North Korea's domestic Central Radio and monitored by Radiopress in Tokyo, said the country's revolutionary work should not end with just one generation.

"Historical experience shows that if the succession issue involving takeovers of great revolutionary works of the leader failed to be resolved correctly, it could result in damaging the party and revolution through acts of betrayal by ambitious people and conspirators," it said.

This, the radio added, "could also bring about a grave disastrous result."

Kim Jong-II, 52, was groomed for more than two decades as his father's successor and has been hailed as such by Pyongyang's official media.

But the younger Kim still has not been confirmed in the key positions the elder Kim held — state president, general secretary of the ruling Korean workers' Party and head of the party Military Commission.

Meanwhile, North Korea's stern refusal to open its undeclared nuclear sites to special inspections prompted open discord Tuesday among top South Korean officials.

## Carlos victims protest 'smokescreen' Verge row

**PARIS (R)** — French officials and victims of attack blamed on Carlos the Jackal said Tuesday a flurry of accusations by and against his lawyer were a smokescreen helping the captured guerrilla.

"This should not distract our compatriots from the essential... Murderers must be punished," he told RTL Radio.

RTL quoted then Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy as denying allegations that Mr. Mitterrand ordered his anti-terrorist unit to kill Mr. Verge and saying the lawyer would no longer be around Carlos if secret services had decided to kill him.

The allegations, denied by former spymasters, started a debate in the press on whether France, which abolished the death penalty in 1981, allowed its secret services to resort to murder.

Mr. Verge, who in 1982 defended Carlos' guerrilla girlfriend Magdalena Kopp, has said former Gendarmerie Captain Paul Barril told him he was spared because killing him would have been too conspicuous.

## Blood at murder scene said to match Simpson's

**LOS ANGELES (R)** — Samples taken from a bloody trail leading away from the scene where O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and a friend were murdered match the DNA type of the football legend's blood, according to court papers filed Monday.

It was the first indication that DNA testing, which is much more accurate than other forms of blood matching, had linked Simpson's blood to the scene of the murder.

The results are preliminary, and prosecutors say more exhaustive tests are needed. DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid. It is the basis building block of genetic material. Simpson, a member of the U.S. Football Hall of Fame, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Goldman, 25, who were stabbed and slashed to death outside Nicole's Brentwood townhouse on the night of June 12.

Simpson's lawyers had claimed that blood samples were being subjected to unnecessary, duplicitous tests that denied scientists hired by the defence access to them.

Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, in a motion to the court answering that claim, wrote that the samples were more likely to implicate Simpson than clear him.

"The blood drop trail... leading away from the murder scene at the rear of

the box contained ballots and other official documents, Mr. Amadeo said.

### Opposition declares victory in Chiapas

Meanwhile opposition leaders in a restive southern state say they will set up a rival local government in official results confirm a win for the ruling party.

Electon in Chiapas state, a poor region the government fought armed rebels earlier this year, coincided with Sunday's national vote for president and parliament.

Preliminary results in Chiapas gave a wide lead to Eduardo Robledo Rincon, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's candidate for governor. With 45 per cent of precincts counted, Mr. Robledo was leading with 49.1 per cent of the vote to 31.5 per cent for Amado Avendaño Figueroa of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD.

"We have to defend our vote yes or no?" he asked the crowd of more than 1,000 people.

"Yes" the crowd shouted back.

Although many Mexicans say Sunday's elections were fairer than past ballots, thousands of people in Chiapas were prevented from voting.

A nationwide shortage of absentee ballots was especially acute in Chiapas because many peasants were displaced by fighting between rebels and government troops that killed more than 145 people in January.

Some displaced peasants had to walk for miles (kilometres) to cast ballots for a new president, federal lawmakers and governor.

Mr. Avendaño, 60, was seriously injured July 26 in a traffic collision. Authorities said it was an accident. His family and supporters believe it was an attempt on his life.

Mr. Avendaño has aligned himself with the rebel Zapata National Liberation Army and its demands for democracy, justice and improved social services, especially for the state's impoverished Indian peasants, party leaders said.

There was no immediate response from the armed rebels, who promised to withdraw into the mountains and stay out of the way on election day — though they have called for widespread civil disobedience to protest any electoral fraud.

Domingo Lopez Angel, federal deputy candidate for the PRD, told a rally in the plaza that the state elections were wracked by widespread fraud.

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Orson Welles makes debut in Edinburgh

BURGH (R) — A lay neglected in old garages for many decades after it was made its public library director began on it. Don Quixote, a 17th century classic, over a period of at least four years, won an enthusiastic audience over the weekend.

Edinburgh Film Festival. An incomplete movie about four men in Brazil entitled "It's a Lie" also received its premiere in Edinburgh.

"I am very glad we were here," said Juan Amalberti, producer for the film's distributor, Spain and was by the character.

"Don Quixote is the most impressive work I have seen and deserves to be seen and enjoyed," said Jane Pope of the Canadian branch of the festival.

"The film is excellent."

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## World News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1994 5



Hundreds of Rwandan refugees are gathered on the Ruzizi river bank and attempt to swim across the Zairean side to flee from inter-ethnic violence near Cyangugu border town. (AFP photo)

Zaireans officials are now strictly controlling the flow of refugees entering their territory to prevent a large exodus (AFP photo)

### Karadzic predicts solid no vote to peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic predicted overwhelming rejection of an international peace plan in this weekend's referendum as military analysts said Tuesday they feared an all-out war in the coming winter.

"I expect 90 to 95 per cent of voters to say 'no,' judging by what I have seen and heard," Mr. Karadzic said in a television interview broadcast from Pale, the Serb stronghold outside Sarajevo.

The referendum is being held to judge Bosnian Serb opposition to a proposed territorial settlement that would end the war by splitting the republic roughly equally between a federation of Muslims and Croats and their Serb foes.

The federation has accepted the plan, devised by officials from a "contact group" of five major nations and presented in July. The

Serbs have refused it, saying it obliges them to give up too much of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they now control.

Their rejection of the plan has left them isolated, with Western, Russian and Serbian-led Yugoslavia, at the prompting of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, all backing the deal.

Anxious to avoid further sanctions and keen to end those imposed for backing the Serbs in the Bosnian war, Yugoslavia has slapped a tough trade blockade on its former protégés and begun a media campaign to discredit Bosnian Serb leaders.

The referendum, which Belgrade has dismissed as a farce, will help shore up the position of Mr. Karadzic and other Pale leaders, whose legitimacy is being questioned by Mr. Milosevic as he tries to reassert control over politicians who no longer

acknowledge his sponsorship.

In response Mr. Karadzic and others have begun a publicity campaign, with public rallies in Serb heartlands and visits to areas that would have to be abandoned under the terms of the contact group plan.

Military analysts warned that responding to Bosnian Serb obstinacy by lifting the arms embargo, as proposed by the United States, could plunge Bosnia back into

war. The implications of lift and withdrawal are horrific, Bosnia could be in big trouble with a very nasty winter. Can anyone think lifting the embargo is a magic wand?" said a Western diplomat in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

U.N. spokesmen in Sarajevo reported sporadic shelling in areas of central Bosnia that have been the scene of heavy fighting in recent weeks. But the U.N. has not spoken of major attacks for some days.

The U.N. has become irritated at recent Bosnian army assaults, saying they inspire the Serbs to seize stored weapons and compromise the integrity of security zones around Sarajevo.

The Serbs said Muslim-led

Bosnian army assaults led them to close commercial routes into Sarajevo a month ago, tightening the siege they have maintained for more than two years, but observers say the move was a response to pressure to accept the peace plan.

In the northwest Bihać enclave Bosnian army forces were reported to be consolidating their hold on the collapsed empire of rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, two days after they brought his 11-month revolt to an end.

Sarajevo Radio said 4,500 people had responded to Bosnian government appeals to return home after having fled to nearby Serb-held territory during the last assault.

U.N. aid officials could not

confirm any move home and said thousands of refugees were still marooned in miserable conditions after the Croatian government refused them entry to territory it controls.

Despite the U.S. decision

to end a 28-year policy of automatic asylums of Cubans, the number rescued Monday was the highest at 2,548 in a single day since the 1980 Mariel boatlift.

"It was a very busy day,"

Petty Officer Kent Holmes told AFP in a telephone interview. Officer Holmes said there was no sign the pace

was slowing.

A Coast Guard spokesman in Miami said 456 more Cubans were plucked out of the waters between midnight Monday and 6:30 a.m. (1230 GMT). Since Saturday, 5,486 refugees have been picked up.

Monday's number was

nearly double the 1,300 re-

covered by the White House.

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of refugees fleeing the Muslim enclaves Biljan and Velika Kladusa crowded around the U.N. control posts desperately seeking entry into Croatia, but officials in Zagreb appear unwilling to admit them (AFP photo)

A unidentified Polish U.N. soldier stands guard at the UNPROFOR checkpoint in Turanj near the Croatian town of Karlovac while a Muslim refugee family from the enclave Velika Kladusa in northwest Bosnia sit in the shadow of the sentry box. Thousands

of refugees fleeing the Muslim enclaves Biljan and Velika Kladusa crowded around the U.N. control posts desperately seeking entry into Croatia, but officials in Zagreb appear unwilling to admit them (AFP photo)

A woman keeps her daughter afloat as they board a crude boat to flee Cuba from a beach at Guanabo, 35 km east of Havana (AFP photo)

### Bonn: Russia keen to quash nuclear smuggling



Sergey Stepashin (right), head of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK), smiles as Germany's special envoy Bernd Schmidbauer looks at him during their joint press conference in Moscow (AFP photo)

Stepashin and Schmidbauer are shown during their joint press conference in Moscow.

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### Rwanda refugees quit Bukavu

BUKAVU, Zaire (R) — Thousands of Rwandan refugees packed their bags and headed out of Bukavu Tuesday as tempers in the increasingly filthy and congested Zairean town became more and more frayed.

From 7 a.m. there was a steady flow of Hutus out of the city centre and towards Hongo, a new camp site opening up for 80,000 people on the wind-swept shores of Lake Kivu.

"People are clearing out of town incredibly fast," said Jane Pope of the Care charity's Canadian branch. "They are vacating the sites and there's been a steady stream of people."

The start of a move from Bukavu came as a relief to the aid agencies, who have warned that the presence of 100,000 refugees in the city centre risks triggering massive epidemics and increasing violent confrontations.

Life in this picturesque lakeside town has been transformed by the influx of tens of thousands of refugees who are convinced the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), which won the civil war, will crack down in the wake of France's weekend troop withdrawal from a safe haven in south west Rwanda.

U.N. aid workers are relieved that the flight of refugees from Rwanda following the French handover of the safe haven to U.N. peacekeepers has not been on the biblical scale that swamped the Zairean border town of Goma in mid-July.

"If we let them come in on foot they will disperse and settle in the area near the bridge, which is what we want to avoid," said an immigration official.

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"The air has become unbreathable, there is no room to move. And these people aren't ready to leave, if they're still here in three of four months' time, then we'll see some clashes."

Aid officials say Zaireans are already beginning to catch the debilitating dysentery that has plagued the refugees brought with them.

They say that once

"We're breathing a collective, but cautious, sigh of relief," Ron Redmond, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a Geneva news briefing.

As the Bukavu squatters set out on foot, trucks laid by aid agencies ferried batches of refugees waiting on the Rwandan side of the Ruzizi River across the frontier and towards Nyanza anangwe, another new camp.

After initially closing its main border crossing Saturday on the grounds that it did not want a repeat of last month's Goma catastrophe, Zaire agreed under pressure from the aid agencies to open a less-frequented bridge further south.

The aim was to force the refugees to bypass central Bukavu, crammed to bursting point, and settle in the camps. No Hutus were being allowed to walk across the Ruzizi 2 bridge Tuesday — instead they were being carefully herded onto trucks laid on by the charity care, heading directly to the camps.

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## Jordan Times

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### Politics by proxy

THE JUST-ended meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria and Iran in Damascus took a brave decision to renew the agreement on the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity by rejecting "certain extra-regional efforts" aiming to strengthen and consolidate the Kurdish position in northern Iraq. But by passing such a resolution, the neighbours of Iraq are merely expressing concern about their own Kurdish populations and in turn their own territorial integrity in the face of growing international support for certain Kurdish rights in the region.

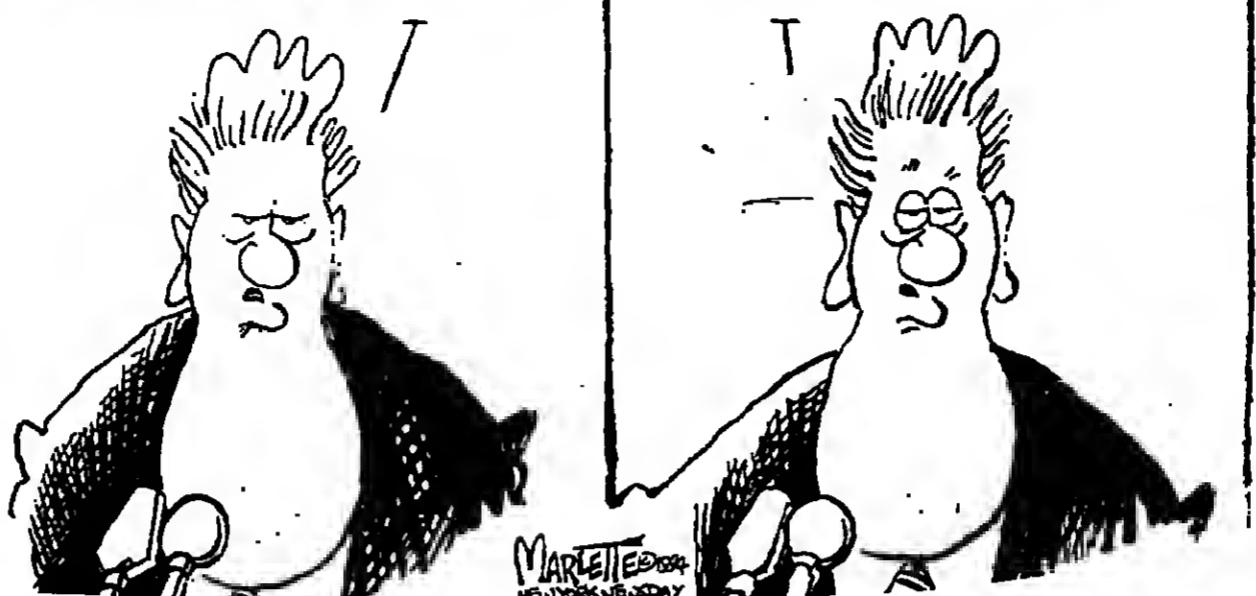
The recent Paris meeting held by rival Kurdish groups and representatives in Britain, France and the U.S. had a smell of attempted interference in the Kurdish question which Ankara, Tehran and Damascus saw as a prelude to the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq. The problem with the decision taken by Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and their Syrian counterpart Farouk Sharaa rests in the fact that it was adopted without Baghdad being present at the meeting. If there is a genuine concern about Iraq's territorial integrity, Iraqi authorities should have been the first to be present at the Damascus gathering. While professing rejection of all forms of interferences in Iraqi domestic affairs, the neighbours of that Arab state sought to do exactly the contrary by bypassing the very country that they wished to save from partition by the major powers. We think Iraq can no longer remain isolated from regional or extra-regional decision-taking processes. Ankara, Tehran and Damascus should have invited the government of Iraq to take its proper place at such an important meeting. It would not have been such a bad idea also if the PUK and KDP Kurdish factions in northern Iraq were also included in meetings which could determine their future. After all we are at the end of the 20th century and the policies of the past can no longer be viable.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday said that the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings which concluded in Amman Monday agreed on a mechanism to discuss issues of common interest that have become urgent for two reasons. The paper said in its editorial that the urgency of these issues resulted from the tangible unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples which makes it difficult for any political leadership to ignore or dismantle. The second reason, said the paper, is due to the acceleration of the peace process and the important issues the two sides have to discuss in the process and to coordinate their stands on. The two sides have shown keenness to activate a joint mechanism to discuss developments in the peace process and showed a high level of responsibility when they stressed the need to coordinate their coverage of the process so as not to allow others to undermine bilateral relations, said the paper. It noted that that was the reason why the concluding statement of the meetings did not mention topics that the two sides differ over. The Israeli media, meanwhile, was keenly interested in highlighting Jordanian-Palestinian differences in an attempt to distract attention from the main issue in the region, which is ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab lands, namely the Jordanian and Palestinian lands, the paper said. It added that Israeli manoeuvres to aggravate Arab differences and plant secession among them was not even stopped by the peace process which gave Israel more "fuel and flammable material to add to the fire of secession it was trying to plant." Al Ra'i said that these manoeuvres only work on those who do not realise the deep feelings of pan-Arab belonging to both Jordan and Palestine. It said the main job of Jordan and Palestine will always remain ending the Israeli occupation.

I'M SICK OF ALL THIS CRITICISM!  
MY ADMINISTRATION HAS PUT  
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO WORK!

-GRANTED, MOST OF THEM ARE  
SPECIAL PROSECUTORS!



### Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

### Clinton's long, hot summer

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is in the midst of a long and hot crisis-filled summer. He is facing a wide range of challenges, the most important of which threaten his chances for success on some of the most key domestic issues on which he based his presidency: health care, crime and welfare reform.

Throughout the summer, public approval of the president's performance has followed a downward trend, dropping more than 15 points. It is telling that even in an area where Mr. Clinton has had success: the economy, he is receiving little public recognition for his efforts.

The White House continually reminds the press and the public that in less than two years, Mr. Clinton has passed a major deficit reduction package, created significant new foreign trade opportunities for U.S. businesses, restored investor confidence in the economy, and overseen an economic resurgence which has created 4,000,000 new jobs, sustained reasonable economic growth while keeping inflation down. Yet despite these achievements, recent polls show that most Americans express disapproval of the president's handling of the economy, and a plurality even feel that Republicans would do a better job of handling the economy than the president's Democratic Party.

And even lower than the public's approval of Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, foreign affairs, health care and crime is their overall approval of the president. The most recent CNN/USA Today polls shows Mr. Clinton's overall approval rating at a low 39 per cent.

Critics correctly point out the president's contribution to his decline in the polls: a succession of public scandals, disarray at the White House, and the administration's penchant for "waffling" on issues. But the single most important reason behind the president's slide in the polls is a growing cynicism about all government leaders — whether Democrat or Republican — and government in general.

While President Clinton has recently been receiving more favourable press coverage, the constant criticism he has endured during the past two years has taken its toll. So has the incessant partisan sniping that has become the norm in political discourse in Washington. An equally damaging but less noted phenomenon undermining the president is the tone of ridicule which political commentators, newscasters and popular comedians use when discussing our political leaders.

This very same pattern of criticism, partisan sniping and ridicule that weakened George Bush's presidency. Mr. Clinton is the new victim and every fault of his, whether or not it is related to his performance in office, is fair game; although he wouldn't be exempt even if he were perfect.

The end result of this type of discourse is deep public cynicism which suggests that the U.S. is on a downwards slide, that little can be done to correct "the mess in Washington," and that "those politicians in Washington" are not capable of doing the job in any case. Ironically, the need to restore hope to a cynical electorate was one of the major themes of Mr. Clinton's campaign. So it is especially hurtful for the president to see his leadership paralysed by his inability to combat public negativity.

This is more than a morale problem for the White House, however; it is a practical political problem as well. As public cynicism and disrespect for government grows, so does Mr. Clinton's ability to lead and influence legislators to support his programmes.

The president has become so politically weak that his very

identification with his own programmes has become a liability. For example, recent polls show that a clear majority of Americans support the type of health care reform that the president has called for. The public overwhelmingly believes that there should be universal health care coverage for all Americans and that employers should pay to cover their employees — two central features of the president's programme. But when asked if they support the Clinton health care plan, a majority says "no."

The president's political weakness not only poses problems for more than just his legislative agenda, but it has political ramifications as well. Several Democratic candidates in this year's Congressional elections have already advised the White House to "stay away" from their campaigns. This prompted one Democratic Party official to state: "We're aware that it is not in the best interests of some of our candidates to associate with us (the Clinton administration) and we understand this ... if you want us to stay away, we'll stay away."

While these comments were, of course, quickly repudiated by the White House, they did reflect a widespread attitude among Democratic leaders and candidates who have come to fear that too close an identification with President Clinton will hurt their electoral chances in November.

The Republicans' strategy, as indicated by their behaviour during the recent voting on the crime bill and the debate over health care in the Senate, is clear: Obstruct the president's efforts to pass any legislation this fall.

The Republicans assume that if they can deny the president any legislative victories, they will even further erode his leadership, which they hope will improve their chances of winning control of Congress in the 1994 elections. In this effort they used stalling tactics and threats against any members of their party who break ranks to support the president.

But the Republicans' success in temporarily derailing the president's crime bill last week shocked the White House into action. The president has taken some steps to shore up his position, especially in preparation for this fall's Congressional elections. In his appeal to Democrats to support his position on the legislation, the president correctly observed that he needed Democratic votes "to save my presidency." Implicit in this appeal was a recognition that if the president loses the vote on the crime bill and is further weakened, the Democrats' chances to win their elections this fall will decrease.

In further effort to restore confidence, the president is engaged in a restructuring of the White House administration team. In this effort he has called on three respected Democratic party leaders: Leon Panetta (who moved from the position of director of the office of management and budget to become White House chief of staff), Tony Coelho (a former House majority whip who was assigned to the Democratic National Committee to assist in planning strategy for the 1994 elections), and Judge Abner Mikva (who will take over as White House Legal Counsel).

It is not clear how immediately these changes in operations will begin to have an effect on White House performance. Nor is it clear that they will succeed soon enough to secure passage of the crime bill and health care reform before the November elections.

What is clear is that the president is emerging from his long, hot summer with a "wake-up call" and a determination to fight to save his embattled presidency.

### India, U.S. burying long-time antagonisms

By Nelson Graves  
Reuter

NEW DELHI — When the United States ordered a quarter of a million Indian skirts to be taken off store shelves this month on the grounds that they could catch fire, American diplomats expected a strong reaction in New Delhi.

But an unruffled Indian government refused to shout foul. Instead it told exporters to win back the market by offering scientific proof the skirts were not excessively flammable.

"We had expected the usual grumblings about unfair trade barriers," a U.S. diplomat said. "But they didn't really come." Forty-seven years after India won independence, New Delhi and Washington are burying deep-seated antagonisms and forging a new relationship.

New Delhi's level-headed reflex in the skirts episode demonstrated the pragmatism that now surrounds Indo-U.S. relations, diplomats and foreign policy analysts say.

The mistrust, prejudices and ideological labels that kept Washington and New Delhi at arm's length throughout the cold war are giving way to a cautious willingness to strengthen ties.

"There is a warning of the relationship," said B.G. Verghese of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

The shift is closely related to the changed international landscape. During the cold war Washington considered India to be Moscow's client state. But that thorn has been removed with the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Now that Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan and tensions have cooled in the Gulf, India's Western neighbour, Pakistan, no longer has strategic primacy for Washington, which for many years courted Islamabad with sophisticated weaponry.

Still, until recently Washington toed a hard line.

"Strategic issues in 1992-93 were a huge strain on Indo-U.S. relations," said Bhabani Sen Gupta, executive director of the Centre for Research on International Change.

"There was a very strong U.S. emphasis on human rights, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and missiles."

Then India opened up the disputed Kashmir region to foreigners and diplomats, set up a national human rights commission and, in early 1993, launched bilateral talks with Pakistan. Kashmir, however, still

remains largely closed to international human rights groups.

Mr. Gupta said India appears to have assured Washington that it is in no rush to develop its missile-launching capability, and the emphasis in non-proliferation circles has shifted to seeking a nuclear-safe, as opposed to a nuclear-free, world.

As Islamic fundamentalism makes inroads in Algeria, Malaysia and Turkey, Washington looks to India — with the world's second largest Muslim population behind Indonesia — as a bulwark.

But the deciding factor, according to Mr. Gupta, was India's far-reaching economic reform programme, launched in 1991, which has stoked U.S. hopes of cashing in on business opportunities.

India's economic potential looms ever larger as some other Asian markets become saturated. India is also a hedge against the possibility of political unrest in China, Mr. Verghese said.

"India needs U.S. technology and the U.S. is interested in the Indian market and its possible stabilising role," he said.

The recent appointment of U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner to a post that had long remained vacant soothed New Delhi's pride.

Mr. Wisner quickly won plaudits from New Delhi when he said there was little hope Washington would deliver 38 F-16 warplanes that Pakistan had ordered because of opposition in Congress.

The Indian government then extended a valuable payment guarantee to U.S. giant Enron Corp., which is building a \$3 billion gas power plant in western India.

Last week Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced a new plan to pay Indian parents to pull up to two million children out of hazardous jobs and put them in school.

Charity groups said it was a clear response to a U.S.-led campaign to curb child labour in developing countries.

A U.S. diplomat said Washington had decided to tone down its criticism of India's human rights record and quietly prod India and Pakistan to settle their long-standing dispute over Kashmir.

A parade of U.S. officials including Defence Secretary William Perry are expected in India in early 1995.

"Instead of flying at each other's throats, India and the U.S. are willing to sit down and talk things out," Mr. Verghese said. "They can agree to disagree without being disagreeable."

### French leave Rwanda — could they have done more?

By John Follain  
Reuter

PARIS — As the last French soldiers in Rwanda packed their bags on Sunday, Paris defiantly applauded their two-month humanitarian mission in the face of critics who had questioned its motives.

French officials say they are satisfied with the achievements of Operation Turquoise and that the military mission did not stabilise the region that had not been its aim.

No French official is ready to rule out a new catastrophe — a new exodus of refugees or more inter-tribal violence.

A front-page cartoon in Le Monde summed up France's failure to ensure violence does not flare up again as the new government of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) gradually takes control.

An unarmed French soldier boarding a jet turns to wag a finger at an RPF colleague, who has a gun on his shoulder. "We're agreed — no more genocide," the Frenchman admonishes.

With its U.N. mandate expiring on Sunday, Paris says it has pulled off a delicate operation and silenced critics at home and abroad who two months ago cast doubt on its motives.

"We told the U.N. all we know about the violence," the military source said. "We arrested people caught red-handed committing offences, but it definitely wasn't up to us to hunt for murderers and arrest them."

According to Paris, the ball is now in the court of the new Kagame government, which must demonstrate it can re-assure its people and avert another refugee exodus.

The enduring hostility of the new Kagame rulers, with their repeated calls for French soldiers to pull out, played into the hands of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who was keen for the troops to pull out on time.

The U.N. force inherits a challenging task. French officials say there are 2.5 million residents and refugees in the "safe zone" against 1.9 million in the rest of Rwanda.

In the strategic power game, Operation Turquoise has shown France stands almost alone in the West as a country with the means and the will to intervene militarily in Africa.

Beyond the lives they undoubtedly saved, the French troops still risks being remembered as only a brief intermission in a series of woes to hit the African country.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has acknowledged

### LETTER

#### A congenial forum?

To the Editor:

THE EXCELLENT idea of the "science week" held earlier this month in Amman was marred by a point of protocol.

Large boards were placed in the auditorium marked "their excellencies the ministers" and "distinguished personalities of the realm." Further directive was obviously not necessary into the above categories.

Islamic teaching and Arabic tradition are profuse with statements against any form of class distinction or privilege. "The public's master is their servant" is one of the more celebrated statements. "Civil servant" and not "civil master" is the usual designation of government officials in more sophisticated set-ups. But it seems that the habits surviving from the "centuries of darkness" carry greater weight in our society than those teachings and traditions.

A whole is made up of component parts and the only one of the important components. The above procedure contributes to a pompous and unpleasant atmosphere.

Some of the readers of this letter will have experienced the environment in which conferences of similar nature are held in lands much more advanced in the field. It is usually free seating with highly distinguished researchers sitting next to students in all manner of casual dress including jeans and shorts! In fact that attitude contributes to a great atmosphere of learning as the implicit message is that the focus is on the quality of subject matter and nothing else.

Honour is then bestowed on those whose work has the highest quality and not through overbearing decree.

Dr. Omar Mangi  
Amman.

# Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1994 7

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## Jordan made specific proposals

(Continued from page 1)

see their meetings with each other as one aimed at addressing the mapping of a future that will reflect on the two sides equally.

"We told them we are not negotiating with them, we are only trying to do the things that have to be done," one official said.

But the more important result of the meetings, held after months of uneasy relations, was in laying the grounds and hopefully allaying the fears that have so far hindered Palestinian coordination with Jordan.

The fact that the members of the cabinet-level Palestinian delegation "were more politicians than economists" is because they appeared to be "assessing the political atmosphere ahead of a higher meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and President Yasser Arafat," one Jordanian official said.

The Palestinian delegation apparently had told the Jordanian side that they wanted final agreements to

be signed by Mr. Arafat himself. Because of this message, Jordanian officials believe a summit between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders will only come after the joint committee paves the road for a successful visit, probably after the next meeting in September.

The Jordanian side believes that it might have been successful at laying to rest what they say are "unsubstantiated fears" towards Jordanian intentions whether over the issue of Jerusalem or on trade and banks.

"The overall feeling we got, as Jordanian delegates to that meeting, is that there is a lot Jordan can do to facilitate the task of the Palestinian self-rule authority," the senior official said.

"Also we feel that any difficulties they may have in handling their affairs, whether internally or with international donors, are problems that affect us as well and which we have had experience, as a state, in those who we have had.

He said that differences in views "do not mean that there is a conflict" with the Palestinians, and affirmed that every point of difference was discussed at the meetings which concluded Monday in Amman.

Dr. Majali, who was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Al Hindawi, several Cabinet members, Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Al-Tarawneh and several offi-

cials, will deliver several lectures on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasisan on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it.

He said that it was imperative to preserve and highlight Jordan's good image in Arab and international intellectual arenas.

The premier will deliver lectures at the Rand Foundation and at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

The premier, in his comments at Petra, described Jordanian-American relations as good, pointing to Washington's writing off of part of Jordan's debts and asking other countries to reduce these debts.

## Activists step up campaign

(Continued from page 1)

pan-Arab mobilisation to achieve the goals of the struggle and national liberation stage; and articles 20-26 which consider the Balfour Declaration and the (British) mandate pact null and consider Zionism as an imperial political, racist, expansionist movement."

Therefore we have to affirm that if Mr. Yasser Arafat succeeds in illegally introducing amendments that he has committed himself to, only few procedural articles will remain out of the charter's 33 articles."

It said Mr. Arafat had no authority to represent the Palestinian people or act on behalf of the PLO or any PLO institutions. The statement noted that Mr. Arafat has not been able to convene a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee itself because of lack of quorum.

Among the signatories were:

Ibrahim Baker, lawyer and former member of the PNC and deputy chairman of the Executive Committee;

Ahmad Sedki Al Dajani, PNC member and former member of the Executive Committee;

Edward Said, professor at Columbia University;

Asaad Bayoud Al Tamimi, PNC member;

Amin Khader, lawyer;

Amin Qubba'a, researcher;

Bassam Al Shaka, elected mayor of Nablus;

Bahjat Abu Gharbiya, PNC member and former executive committee member;

Tayseer Khaled, PNC and Executive Committee member;

Jamil Marqa, PNC member;

Jawad Younis, lawyer;

George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP;

Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team in Madrid and former deputy speaker of the PNC;

Khaled Al Fahoum, former PNC speaker;

Riyad Al Maliki, professor at Bir Zeit University;

Riyad Mansour, deputy ambassador to the U.N.;

Saji Salameh, PNC member;

Samia Khalil, chairwoman of the In'sh Al Usra Society;

Shafiq Al Hout, PNC and Executive Committee member;

Salah Salah, PNC member and former member of the Executive Committee;

Abbas Zaki, member of the PNC and the Fatah Central Committee;

Abdu Jabbar Abu Gharbiyah, member of the administrative committee of the Arab Human Rights Organization;

Abdul Samih, PNC member;

Abdul Rahim Mula'wih,

member of the Central Council and Executive Committee;

Abdul Aziz Ahmad, doctor;

Issam Abdul Hadi, Central Council member and president of the General Federation of Palestinian Women;

Father Odeh Al Rantisi, clergymen;

Fahd Al Rimawi, journalist;

Labeeb Qamhawi, vice-president of the Arab Human Rights Organisation;

Mohammad Hasan Milhem, Central Council member and former member of the Executive Committee;

Nayeef Hawatmeb, secretary general of the DFLP;

Hani Al Hassan, Central Council member and Fatah Central Committee member;

Fisham Sharabi, history professor at Georgetown University; and

Yahya Hammoudah, former Executive Committee chairman and PNC speaker.

**Israelis wound two in Gaza**

(Continued from page 1)

ney general has enough evidence to try the four officers. It is a positive step."

Dr. Ashrawi said.

Israeli security forces have arrested 12 Palestinians accused of belonging to the Islamic group Hamas, the army said Monday.

They were seized in Sunday night raids in two villages near the town of Jenin in the northern West Bank, an army statement said. It did not specify any charges against the men.

The arrests could affect the tense relations between Israel and the self-rule government, which is especially sensitive to Israel's continued jailing of Palestinians.

Some 4,500 detainees have been released since the onset of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but several thousand remain in Israeli jails.

Five Israelis have been killed since the PLO took over the autonomous areas and Islamic fundamentalist groups were blamed. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused Mr. Arafat of not doing enough to stem such attacks.

The sides are currently negotiating the expansion of civilian aspects of autonomy throughout the West Bank as well.

The Palestinian police chief General Nasr Yousef said on Tuesday the PLO has put off issuing orders to arrest Hamas militants despite calls to end violence.

He said the PLO had its "reasons which are political and its own vision of things."

Until then the generals and Mr. Abiola were



Sifting through "second hand" clothing at a downtown Amman clothes stall (File photo)

By Adrian D'Ambra

AROUND THE suburbs of Australian cities, near railway stations and beside supermarket car parks, stand the large metal collection bins of the Salvation Army and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. They are like giant posting boxes with shutters big enough for people to push their bags of unwanted clothing through.

The brotherhood bins

a generic name covering all agencies — achieved a sad infamy some years ago

when it was realised that they were being used by homeless street kids as a place to crash for the night. These were just some of the people the welfare agencies were wanting to help, but not in this way. The full horror of this tragic irony was brought to public attention with the death by incineration of a runaway child in one of the bins.

However, the unfortunate history of the used clothing collection receptacles did not pass into the province of urban mythology and they are still being used today. Australians are ram-

pantly consumeristic — we don't save, we spend — but alongside this conspicuous consumption, we are also charitable. People think nothing of bundling up their unwanted family clothing, their no longer fashionable or out of season gear, and depositing it in one of the collection bins. The era of the hand-me-downs has passed but we have replaced it with something we consider to be equally practical and helpful.

I first began to wonder

what happens to all the clothing donated to the welfare agencies since I've been living in a developing country where imported clothing is so expensive I refuse to buy it and the locally made stuff either

badly made or uninspiring.

As an employed expatriate I can, of course, replenish supplies during annual leave. However, apart from what happens to the clothes donated to the welfare agencies. I've always assumed that they are distributed amongst needy people, either at home or abroad.

Wrong.

Your clothes are bundled and strapped up into large bails which are then sold to a wholesale dealer at a fixed minimum price per bail.

Apart from the few garments that trickle into opportunity shops, that minimum bulk price is the only benefit they and their clients get from collecting the clothes.

What does the wholesaler do? He employs several sorters at his warehouse.

## Bring back 'the hand-me-downs'

means of keeping themselves and their families reasonably dressed.

Before I go any further, I should point out something. Like most Australians I have a fairly naive view of what happens to the clothes donated to the welfare agencies. I've always assumed that they are distributed amongst the needy for sale at a so-called pre-loved or re-cycled clothing store.

The wholesaler then cleans and bundles the remaining clothes into bails again, selling them to distributors at approximately a hundred percent mark up on the original bail price. From my own experience in Jordan and Syria, I can assure you that many of the clothes following a similar route through European countries do end up in the Third World.

They select the best quality, top table items which are then bought in bulk by the second hand boutiques around town which sell them singly, off the rack to you. Don't be surprised if you see the clothes and accessories you thought were going to be distributed amongst the needy for sale at a so-called pre-loved or re-cycled clothing store.

The wholesaler then cleans and bundles the remaining clothes into bails again, selling them to distributors at approximately a hundred percent mark up on the original bail price.

From my own experience in Jordan and Syria, I can assure you that many of the clothes following a similar route through European countries do end up in the Third World.

In the back rooms you can often see the bails, about a metre-and-a-half high, wide and deep. There will also be a non-stop ironing board and tailor's stool.

Everything is pressed and repaired on the premises and the only way to buy is

retailers. I know because I'm wearing some of them.

One of the fastest growing enterprises in downtown Amman is the retailing of imported second hand clothing which — and I've only just recently realised this — was originally donated to charity. There are certain areas — French Loaf and Italian Hospital Streets are the largest and busiest — where every shop for block after block has been given over to this curious enterprise.

Some shops specialise in shoes hanging by the hundreds of pairs from the ceiling, others in children's, women's or men's clothing. Other shops specialise in winter weights and overcoats — people who have never lived in the Middle East have no idea how cold it gets in winter.

In the back rooms you can often see the bails, about a metre-and-a-half high, wide and deep. There will also be a non-stop ironing board and tailor's stool.

Everything is pressed and repaired on the premises and the only way to buy is

## Carlos seen expendable in post-cold war world

By Jim Wolf

Reuter

WASHINGTON — By

the end of his long and bloody career, Carlos had, like so many of his victims, become expendable.

Experts inside and outside the U.S. government said the notorious guerrilla captured in Sudan and extradited to France Monday was doomed by post-cold war trends that brought an end to his sponsorship by such pariah states as Iran and Libya that the United States claims support terrorist.

Both Mr. Abiola and Gen. Abacha are Muslims but the infantry general was born in the northern state of Kano. He fought in Nigeria's 1967-70 civil war when the southeastern region of Biafra sought to secede.

Mr. Abiola, 56, has transformed his image from that of a lackey of Western imperialism to champion of democracy.

The annulment of the June 12, 1993, election made him a cause celebre of a pro-democracy movement opposed to the army's stop-start and manipulated return to a civil rule programme.

Mr. Abiola, an accountant who owns a domestic airline and newspaper group, rose from extremely poor beginnings to become a philanthropic patron of communities and individuals throughout Africa and its diaspora, earning widespread popularity.

Aides say his panacea for Nigeria's ailing economy is the introduction of Singapore-style paternalistic authoritarianism with an emphasis on big business.

Gen. Abacha, 51, is Nigeria's eighth military ruler and is as uncompromising as he is inscrutable.

Gen. Abacha has been governed by soldiers for 24 out of his 34 years of independence.

Nigeria has been dominated by northerners whose political power has been reflected in the capital Lagos and the oil-rich south.

Most of the violence was

in the southwest, Mr. Abiola's stronghold which includes the commercial capital Lagos and the oil-rich south.

Many of the sacked oil

union leaders come from the south where Nigeria's oil is pumped. But because northerners dominate government much of the proceeds is siphoned off for projects in other areas, leaving the oil-producing south neglected.

"He's someone from a bygone era. He's an historical curiosity," said Vincent Cannistraro, head of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterterrorism operations between 1988 and 1990.

"He's expendable," giving Sudan an easy way to deflect attention from its involvement with Islamic militants.

Last August, the U.S. State Department added Sudan to the official U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, joining Iran, Iraq,

Lithuania, Syria and Cuba.

According to an annual

State Department report titled "Patterns of Global Terrorism," Sudan has been providing sanctuary to such radical groups as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

"Sudan served as a convenient transit point, meeting site and safe haven for Iranian-backed extremist groups," the August 1993 report claimed.

"The CIA's cooperation with governments in the Middle East and elsewhere helped close the noose, steadily denying Carlos safe havens," he said.

"The CIA's tracking of his movements was a key contribution to the French success in Sudan."

Yossef Bodansky, director of the House of Representatives Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, said he doubted Carlos's capture spelled an end to Sudan's alleged support of militant groups seeking to

abstain from the Arab-Israeli peace process and oust secular governments in Algeria and Egypt.

Kenneth Katzman, an expert on militant Islam at the congressional research service, said Carlos had become "expendable," giving Sudan an easy way to deflect attention from its involvement with Islamic militants.

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1994

## U.N. chief sees global 'social crisis', cites poverty, unemployment and upheaval

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali Monday said the world faces a global "social crisis," caused by poverty, unemployment, upheaval and social disintegration.

He called on the international community to make a commitment to social development, cutting military budgets first, not social and environmental spending.

The U.N. chief called on nations attending the world summit for social development next March in Copenhagen, Denmark, to pledge to reduce by half or more the proportion of people living in absolute poverty, to create jobs and to reduce disparities among income groups, sexes, ethnic groups, regions and nations.

The social summit is the

latest of a series of ambitious international conferences: The children's summit several years ago, the earth summit in 1992, the international conference on population and development to be held next month in Cairo, Egypt and the fourth world conference on women to be held in September 1994 in Beijing.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali addressed the opening of the summit's second preparatory conference at U.N. headquarters. The conference, ending Sept. 2, will formulate a declaration and plan of action to be adopted in Copenhagen. Another preparatory meeting will be held in January to complete the texts to be adopted by heads of state at the summit.

"The global social crisis threatens many states as much as any foreign army," said Dr. Boutros-Ghali told representatives of the 184 U.N. members as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations and others attending.

For 50 years, he said, the United Nations has avoided another world war, "but without investment in social development, the foundations of peace will not be secured."

"It is time to balance the old commitment to territorial security with a new commitment to human security: To shift from providing security through arms to ensuring security through development," he emphasised.

Fresh efforts are required to revive development in the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Boutros-Ghali said.

Inadequate financing for

U.N. development and other agencies also is likely to be discussed. International funding for the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies are declining while funding for U.N. peacekeeping missions is on the rise.

"If that trend continues, the U.N. will become irrelevant in development," conference chairman Juan Somavia, the ambassador of Chile, told a news conference.

But he also said that the United Nations and its agencies must become more efficient and effective.

He said that one of the many signs of the social crisis is the death every day of 35,000 children worldwide and said most of the deaths could be prevented with better social services.

## Ukraine easing exchange curbs but may be slow

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's new administration announced plans Tuesday to reopen the Kiev currency exchange and ease state control over markets, but economists called the moves half-hearted.

A decree signed by President Leonid Kuchma aims to bring the overvalued official foreign-exchange rate of Ukraine's currency, the karbovants, gradually in line with the much lower market rate by the end of the year.

It also ordered the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange to resume trading on Oct. 1. The bourse was closed last November after

the government accused it of fueling inflation.

But economists said the decree fell short of expectations and they criticised its vague wording and long deadlines.

"I can't imagine that the (International Monetary Fund) and other institutions will be pleased with this. It's quite different from what Kuchma and his advisers had led us to believe," said one Western diplomat.

"This is not a simple issue and the decree is a compromise. I am certain we will be criticised by both the left and the right," Mr. Kuchma's top

economic adviser Anatoly Halytsky told a news briefing.

"There were serious differences on this. We will have to work with the parliament on this," he said.

Mr. Halytsky said the government hoped the reopening of the exchange would open the door to a Western-backed currency stabilisation fund. The sooner such a fund was set up, he said, the sooner Ukraine would have real market exchange rates.

Ukraine has two exchange rates — an official rate used

for the sale of 50 per cent of companies' hard-currency earnings, and a second rate set at weekly central bank auctions.

Under the terms of the decree, the official rate will be based on a series of factors, including inflation, monetary creation and the trade balance. There is no direct link to the market rate.

Economists have long criticised the lack of a free exchange rate and the compulsory sale of export earnings, saying they discouraged exporters and led to widespread capital flight and government corruption.

## India's navy chief calls for expansion of fleet

BOMBAY (R) — India's naval chief has called for a bigger budget to expand the country's extensive blue water fleet in order to protect trade along India's sea lanes as it continues to open up its economy after decades of protectionism.

"With the opening up of our economy, we are once again becoming a major trading nation over the seas," said Admiral V.S. Shekhar.

"We therefore require a sufficiently strong navy to safeguard India's maritime interests," Admiral Shekhar said.

The navy's current budget of 30 billion rupees (\$93 million), which is 13 per cent of India's total defence budget, was inadequate, Admiral Shekhar said.

"With a 15 per cent defence budget allocation for the navy, all I can possibly do is arrest the downside," he

said. "What I require is not just to arrest the downside, but a significant reversal, for which 18 to 20 per cent of the total defence budget is essential."

Admiral Shekhar said that the Indian navy wants to build its own ships to standardise on equipment and spares and reduce expenses on training, all of which are much higher now because of the variety of ships in the fleet.

"We propose to go for indigenous general purpose frigates," he said, adding that government approval for a bigger budget would result in the fleet expanding substantially in about 10 years.

Analysts believe India's tightening of its purse strings for defence in recent years has been influenced by current views on regional security and the economic reforms launched in mid-1991.

The Indian Ocean, focus of a blue water fleet India sought

to build in the 1980s, is now a relatively low area of strategic concern after the end of the cold war and following New Delhi's rapprochement with Beijing, the analysts say.

India, ally of the Soviet Union in the cold war and a rival of China after their border war in 1962, had alarmed countries as far away as Australia and southeast Asia as its navy's blue water reach began to grow.

The concern reached a peak when India acquired on lease a nuclear-powered submarine from the Soviet Union in 1989.

Asked if the navy's submarine design group had drawn up plans for a locally made nuclear-powered submarine, Admiral Shekhar said that only conventionally powered submarines were being sought at present.

Admiral Shekhar also rejected the option of purchasing aircraft carriers to replace the ageing Vikrant.

## South Africa recovery still fragile, central bank says

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's year-long recovery from its longest recession on record remained fragile and could easily lose momentum if labour friction persisted, Reserve (central) Bank Governor Chris Stals said Tuesday.

He ruled out any quick-fix solutions to the economic challenges of post-apartheid South Africa, including widespread unemployment in which 29 per cent of the labour force was unable to find paid work.

"It is an unequivocal fact ... that massive unemployment will remain a feature for some time to come as a legacy of the dismal performance of the South African economy over the past decade," he told the bank's annual meeting.

The economy started to recover in 1993 after four years of recession, which

included three in a row of economic shrinkage.

Mr. Stals said however, that growth faltered early this year amid uncertainties ahead of the country's first all-race elections in April.

"The recovery must still be regarded as fragile," he said. "It could easily lose its momentum again, particularly if the current friction between various trade unions and employers is not resolved soon."

He spoke against the background of a wave of strikes, accompanied by annual wage negotiations, aimed at securing the "better life for all" promised by President Nelson Mandela in his election campaign.

Production disruptions had already persuaded Finance Minister Derek Keys to drop his sights from 3.0-4.0 per cent growth for 1994, although he said recently he still expected more than 2.5 per cent following 1.2 per cent last year.

Mr. Stals urged the country to face its economic challenges in the same spirit in which it had approached "almost insurmountable"

"We cannot make South Africa rich just by depreciating the exchange rate, by lowering interest rates, by increasing wages, or by creating more inflation," he pointed out.

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## COMMONWEALTH GAMES

## Australians fire world warning

**VICTORIA (AFP)** — Kieren Perkins and Samantha Riley struck gold with two world class performances in the Commonwealth pool on Monday.

The biggest name in Australian swimming and the revelation of the Games both came within a whisker of setting world records as the Australians finally produced the times to match all the hype.

Perkins, the 800m and 1,500m freestyle record holder, signalled his return to form with a devastating 400m swim to complete a hat-trick of Commonwealth golds.

The Australian, who failed to win a single race at the national trials, clocked 3:45.77 to leave the rest of the field trailing. His time was the fastest in the world this year by nearly four seconds and only 0.7sec outside the world record.

Nick Gillingham won England's fourth gold medal with victory in the 200m breaststroke, taking revenge over Australia's Phil Rogers, who had pipped him for the 100m gold, and keeping a promise he made to his father, Frank, just before he died in 1984.

"The last thing I said to him was what I would win here. This medal is for him," Gillingham said.

The world shortcourse champion's time of 2:12.54 was also the fastest in the world this year.

Rogers finished second, with defending champion Jon Cleveland taking the bronze.

Riley smashed the Commonwealth 100m breast-

x200m golds here, appears to have peaked at exactly the right time as he heads for the world championships in Rome next month.

"My objective coming into this meet was to get back to my best times of two years ago and I've done that," Perkins said.

"It gives me a lot of confidence into the 1500m and then on to Rome."

New Zealand's Danyon Loader took the silver in a New Zealand record of 3:49.65. Daniel Kowalski, who beat Perkins in the Australian trials, had to settle for bronze after leading the qualifying.

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Riley smashed the Commonwealth 100m breast-

stroke record to add that gold to her 200m triumph. Riley, who clocked 1:08.02, was only 0.1sec outside Silke Hoerner's seven-year-old world record.

"I knew if I could drop four seconds in the 200m I could drop a second at 100m," Riley said.

Rebecca Brown, who had completely eclipsed Riley with a string of world class performances and a 200m world record in the spring again had to settle for second. Penelope Heyns won South Africa's first swim medal by taking the bronze.

While 17-year-old Brown tries to rebuild her shattered confidence in time for Rome, the revitalised Riley is now contemplating an assault on both world records.

"I have to admit I was a bit disappointed when I saw the time tonight. But I have another chance in Rome and I'll have to try and keep things together until then."

Petria Thomas led the Australian to the first medals sweep in the Games with gold in the 100m butterfly. Commonwealth record holder Susan O'Neill was just piped into second place. Eli Overton won bronze.

A memorable night was rounded off by Chris Fyler anchoring the 4x100m freestyle team to Australia's 16th gold of the Games.

## Christie bans media talk as Ladejo bubbles

**VICTORIA (AFP)** — Chalk-and-cheese English track champions Linford Christie and Duaine Ladejo reacted in contrasting styles here on Monday as they began their Commonwealth Games challenge.

Christie, the world, Olympic and European 100m champion, flexed his muscles with a blistering record-equalising second heat performance — but then kept his jaw clamped firmly shut as he refused to discuss his performance.

Raging 400m star Ladejo, however, who also won a European title in Helsinki by eclipsing Roger Black, could not stop bubbling after his two opening wins.

Meanwhile the first athletic medal of the games, the men's hammer, went to Australian Sean Carlin.

He saw off a trio of Englishmen to blast out a winning throw of 73.48m, with Paul Head (70.18) and Peter Vivian (69.80) taking silver and bronze.

Christie, who jogged to 10.33sec in his opener before posting a fine 10.02 which equalled his own Auckland Games record, said sharply: "I've got work to do — not talking between rounds."

He was quickly joined in the semi-finals by Namibian Frankie Fredericks, the world 200m champion, who ran a scorching 10.04.

Olapade Adenikun of Nigeria, still sporting stitches above his left eye after a brawl with American rival Dennis Mitchell in Zurich, also qualified impressively in 10.21, with world indoor 60m champion Bruny Surin not far behind.

The 23-year-old highlighted Nigerian Sunday Bada as the big danger, and Bada obliged by qualifying for the semi-final behind Trinidadian Neil de Silva.

The high jump qualifiers produced early drama when Australian world junior champion Hagan James failed to get through.

Bahamas star Troy Kemp did not start, leaving Steve Smith, England's world silver winner, to head one group sharp.

Ladejo, a huge favourite for the 400m after beating 1986 Commonwealth winner Black in Helsinki, made time after his double heat victories to explain: "I'm still a kid, an apprentice — I'm using the stars of the women's



Linford Christie

other runners to help me reach another level.

"That doesn't mean I'm saying I can't be beaten — hit me if I ever say that. I know I was looking across at them in the final straight, but that's not arrogance or cockiness. I just wanted to see how they looked. I'm learning."

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One man to struggle to find his best form on Monday was world champion Col in Jackson in the 10m hurdles.

The Welshman made things hard for himself in his opening race, smashing three hurdles but still winning in 13.52 secs, while England's Tony Jarrett, the world silver medallist, won the second heat to reach the final.

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400m race jostled for position, with Nigerian Fatima Yousaf and Sandie Richards of Jamaica winning on points on the way to Tuesday's final.

Yousaf, the holder, saw off European bronze medallist Phyllis Smith — who had beaten her in the first round — to win her semi, while Richards, the world bronze medallist, clocked 51.23 to beat Australian Cathy Freeman.

The high jump qualifiers produced early drama when Australian world junior champion Hagan James failed to get through.

Bahamas star Troy Kemp did not start, leaving Steve Smith, England's world silver winner, to head one group sharp.

European indoor Enzo winner Dalton Grant and Australian Tim Forsyth, another medal hope, also qualified.

## Army shooters win games gold for Cyprus

**VICTORIA (AFP)** — A pair of 20-year-olds shrugged off bad weather and landed a gold medal for tiny Cyprus in Commonwealth Games shooting here on Monday.

Shotgun duo Antonis Andreou and Christos Kourtelas, fresh from their national army service, won the skeet open, an outdoor event, in cold, overcast and windy conditions at Heil's Range.

"We may be a small nation but we have a lion's heart," said a proud Lakis Psimolopothis, president of the Cypriot shooting federation. The Cypriot score of 189 out of a possible 200 points shooting clay pigeons was three points better than the next best by New Zealand and Scotland, England and Wales.

The Kiwis, Brian Thomson and Geoffrey Jukes, edged the Scottish pair of Michael Thomson and Ian Marsden to the silver on their last 10 shots. It was Cyprus' first shooting gold medal in a Commonwealth Games but Psimolopothis was not surprised.

The Cypriots had won the team event at the Milan world championships prior to coming here and had been confident of the title, he said. Kourtelas, whose shotgun career began when his father took him part-time hunting, said: "I am proud to win here as a representative of my country. I look forward to a

gold medal in the individual event."

Canadian men won a second men's team title and Australia took the remaining two shooting on Monday.

Wayne Sorenson teamed up with Michel Dion to win the three-positions rifle gold.

Prone, standing and kneeling, he shot the day's best score of 1,156 in Canada's total of 2,300.

Scotland's William Murray and Allister Allan edged Englishmen Chris Hector and Trevor Langridge to the silver medal.

The two teams were first announced as level on 2,271 points, but a countback showed the English had fired one shot too many and they were penalised.

Sorenson, whose father Arne is also on the shooting squad, earned his second gold medal of the games, after he and Jean-Francois Senecal won a rifle event on Friday.

"I feel blessed," Sorenson said. "I shot a great score. I didn't feel confident kneeling, but it looked like I just couldn't miss today."

Australian women Annette Woodward and Christine Treffry won the women's air pistol team gold by two points over New Zealand's Gerd Barkman and Jocelyn Lees.

And just point separated England's bronze medallists Carol Page and Margaret Thomas from the Kiwis.

## Australia tops in individual gymnastics

**VICTORIA (AFP)** — Australian gymnasts picked up five individual apparatus gold medals at the Commonwealth Games Monday after Rebecca Stoyel and Salli Wills added to the three the men won in the morning session.

"We came out and did the best job we could as a team. I think today we answered our critics," said Brennan Dowrick who successfully defended his Commonwealth title on the pommel horse.

Canada's Stella Umeh, the all-around champion, rounded off her career in international events by taking the vault gold. Competing with an ankle stress fracture, Umeh had a painful landing on the beam: In visible discomfort for the final floor exercise, the tough Canadian was supported by her mother who called from the stands: "Come on Stella. It's the last one."

Umeh's 9.375 finally placed her fourth, but she remained the single most successful woman gymnast of the Games.

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Canada's Alan Nolet, rescued his team with a gold in the men's last event, the high bar. Nolet, like Thomas one of the oldest competitors here, also won a bronze on the pommel horse.

It was also a good day for the English.

Peter McDermott took the gold on the rings to share

## Australia tops in gymnastics

(vault) and Dowrick's pommel horse. Stoyel won the uneven bars and Wills on the balance beam.

Dowrick ended the day with three medals — two bronze medals in the rings and parallels. In the rings he tied with Canadian Richard Ikeda and both took home a bronze medal.

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## GOREN BRIDGE

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WEST EAST

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The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 4 ♦ 5 ♦

5 ♦ Pass Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦.

"Good morning, Mr. Phelps."

"Playing in a rubber-bridge game, South, rather undisciplined bidder, but a bridge player of no mean ability, arrived at six hearts on the auction shown. West, a leader in a poor position, chose sham experts, led the king of spades. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to decide whether South can make the contract. As usual, the shamus will deny all knowledge of your mission should you be caught in an

error of analysis. Needless to say, West will be only too happy to publicize any failure on your part. Keep the hand. This tape will self-destruct in 10 seconds. Good luck, Jim."

The Mission Impossible? team pored over the hand all night. The only conclusion they were able to draw was that the services of a bridge expert were required. Because of the sensitivity of the task, they were North of the border in search of the legendary Chef running Rabbit.

It took the Great One only a few seconds to pronounce a verdict: "The contract can no longer be defeated."

"Declare ruff the opening lead with the ace, overtake the queen of trumps with the king and ruff another spade high. A trump to the ten partner another spade ruff and the last spade. Now declarer simply cashes a high diamond and, if the queen does not drop, exits with a club."

"If West wins, a black-suit return allows declarer to ruff in hand while shifting a diamond from dummy. If East wins, declarer allows a diamond return to run around to the jack. In either case, 12 tricks are there for the taking!"

## Jockeys to face random drug tests

**LONDON (R)** — Jockeys could face suspensions of between one and five years under new drug testing procedures being introduced into horse racing by the Jockey Club.

Riders will undergo random testing from the beginning of October, the Jockey Club announced on Monday.

Between three and five jockeys may be selected to provide urine samples by a special drug testing unit that will visit a racetrack each week.

The Jockey Club has drawn up its own list of banned substances, specifically

targeting drugs that could impair a jockey's judgement, endangering his own safety and that of others.

# Sports

## Rangers fear Greek tragedy

PARIS (AFP) — Glasgow Rangers fear AEK Athens may do a Galatasaray to them on Wednesday night when the Scottish champions try to recover a two-goal deficit in their European Cup preliminary round clash.

The Turkish side knocked Manchester United out of the European Cup last season and Rangers will need to play a lot better than they did in Greece to survive.

French international Basile Bob, suspended for the first leg game for the yellow card he picked up playing for Olympique Marseille in the 1993 European Cup final, will be back over AC Milan's defence.

Two teams were forced to play at level on 2-2, but a combination of the English had fired too many and the Rangers' defence.

Ensen, whose father earned his second medal of the game, he and Jean-Francois won a raffle and "feel blessed," Sorensen said. "I shot a great score, I feel confident knowing it looked like just miss today."

Australian women Amherst and Christian won the women's team gold by two over New Zealand's Barkman and Jocelyn.

Just point separated bronze medals Page and Mariana from the Kirov.

**in**

**nastics**

and Neil Thomas performing his specialty dive and also earned a bronze after failing on leading.

Alan Nole, reteam with a gold in his last event, the high jump, like Thomas the oldest competition so won a bronze or r.

the most stable of all," Nole said. "But per cent. You have this sport."

Uruguay of Canada was dismissed, picking up parallel bars, the floor.

Australian men earned through Peter Hodge bars), Brett Hudson and Dowrick's pole. Stoyel won the bars and Wills on the beam.

ended the day with two medals — two in the rings. In the rings, Canadian Richard both took home a medal.

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round 1st leg match. Paris St. Germain, who lost to eventual winners Arsenal in the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final last season, have also had to qualify under UEFA's not easily understood seeding system.

Paris rewarded Portuguese coach Arimo Jorge for winning the French championship by replacing him with Luis Fernandez. But under Fernandez, one of France's famous 1984-86 midfield quartet, Paris have lost two of their first five domestic matches.

However, they demolished Hungarian opponents VAC Samsung 3-0 in the first leg when Liberian striker George Weah scored his only goal so far this season.

They will be without full-back Patrick Colletier, sent off for stamping on Jozef Zvara, and probably David Ginola. The fiery forward, installed as captain by Fernandez, has a groin strain.

They best Servette Geneva 4-1 in the first leg in Romania and should join Beoeca, Anderlecht and Legia Warsaw or Hajduk Split. The Croatian are hardly placed having won the first match 1-0 in Poland.



## FIFA panel to decide Maradona's future

ZURICH (AP) — Diego Maradona is unlikely to make a personal appearance here on Wednesday when FIFA decides what action to take against the Argentina captain who was expelled from the World Cup in June for using drugs.

"I doubt if he'll attend the hearing," said FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren, although Maradona has steadfastly insisted he will defend himself against charges he took the drugs to improve his performance.

The international football federation's standing World Cup committee will not, however, rule on whether the ephedrine drugs for which he tested positive were taken as a stimulant, anabolic steroid or simply as part of a herbal diet.

"The medical aspect of this affair will not be examined," Herren said. Instead, the nine-man committee will restrict itself to passing sentence for a breach of rules.

"There's no precedent," Herren added.

However, Maradona was the fourth player to fail a drug test at a World Cup. Haiti's Ernest Jean-Joseph in 1974, Scotland's Willie Johnston in 1978 and Spain's Ramon Caldere in 1986 all tested positive.

FIFA accepted Spain's explanation in 1986 that Caldere, who had missed his country's first two matches through sickness, was unwittingly prescribed ephedrine by a Mexican doctor.

Maradona had put himself through a drastic diet and get-fit course to be able to play for Argentina after his 15-month ban for cocaine use.

He had two great games against Greece and Nigeria and appeared to be in fine form.

"I don't think the fans will demand we win the title but they will want us to remain in the running until the final Sunday," said former Napoli coach Lippi, looking ahead to a season which begins on September 4.

Mexico's Guillermo Canedo will chair the hearing but FIFA president Joao Havelange, who has said he does not want to wreck Maradona's career, will also sit in.

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"I agree with Fernandez who said the season started too early," VAC coach Janos Czak said. "My players were under a lot of stress in the spring games and it seems the summer break was too short for them to revive. Now we hardly have time to train with one game coming after the other."

Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers, in danger of an early exit from the competition for the second year running, must make up a 2-0 first-leg deficit at home against AEK Athens.

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## Juventus lead assault on Milan's crown

ROME (R) — Juventus have installed a new management team and invested heavily in foreign midfielders Didier Deschamps and Paolo Souza as they try to break AC Milan's domination of the Italian soccer scene.

The Turin club, who won the last of their record 22 league titles back in 1986, have dispensed with the services of legendary coach Giovanni Trapattoni and General Manager Giampiero Boniperti as they seek to end

partnered by Gianluca Vialli, the former international whose career has gone rapidly downhill since he moved from Sampdoria in a deal valued at a world record \$20 million in 1992.

Now aged 30, it is a make-or-break year for Vialli after a foot injury ruled him out for much of last season.

Juveons also have high hopes of 19-year-old attacker Alessandro del Piero, scorer of five goals in just 11 first team appearances last season.

But Juveons fans fear that the other Baggio — Dino — will return to haunt them.

The Turin team controversially sold the tall midfielder to Parma during the World Cup, a decision which embarrassed them as the 23-year-old emerged as one of Italy's stars.

Parma, a third division team less than a decade ago, aim to cap their remarkable rise with a first Italian title, having already lifted Europe's Cup Winners' Cup in 1993.

They have reinforced their defence with the signing of Italy World Cup defender Roberto Masi and bizarre Portuguese stopper Fernando Couto while Colombian Faustino Asprilla has plenty to prove in attack after his World Cup flop.

"This is the strongest squad I've ever worked with," enthused Parma coach Nevio Signori.

Parma have traded striker Alessandro Meli to Sampdoria and a rebuilt Roma aim to bring the title to the capital for only the fourth time.

"I don't think the fans will demand we win the title but they will want us to remain in the running until the final Sunday," said former Napoli coach Lippi, looking ahead to a season which begins on September 4.

Mexico's Guillermo Canedo will chair the hearing but FIFA president Joao Havelange, who has said he does not want to wreck Maradona's career, will also sit in.

The international football federation's standing World Cup committee will not, however, rule on whether the ephedrine drugs for which he tested positive were taken as a stimulant, anabolic steroid or simply as part of a herbal diet.

"I agree with Fernandez who said the season started too early," VAC coach Janos Czak said. "My players were under a lot of stress in the spring games and it seems the summer break was too short for them to revive. Now we hardly have time to train with one game coming after the other."

Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers, in danger of an early exit from the competition for the second year running, must make up a 2-0 first-leg deficit at home against AEK Athens.

Casino Salzburg, runner-up to Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup last year, holds a 2-1 lead over Maccabi Haifa of Israel as it prepares to host the second leg.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Munitions blast wounds 3 Israeli soldiers

TEL AVIV (AP) — An explosion at a munitions depot in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem Tuesday wounded three Israeli soldiers, the army said. Israeli radios said the blast appeared to be accidental but the army said it was probing a possibility of sabotage. Israel's Itim news agency said the explosion occurred shortly after 1430 (1130 GMT) in a tent where ammunition is kept at the military government headquarters in Bethlehem, setting off a chain of other blasts that wounded the soldiers. It said that the depot is located near a tent where Palestinian detainees are kept. Two troopers were injured slightly and a third was listed in moderate condition the army said.

## Iran trains tribesmen in military exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran launched manoeuvres Tuesday aimed at training tribes along the western border with Iraq in defensive military exercises, Teheran Radio reported. The broadcast said several "battalions" comprising tribesmen from across western Bakhtaran province will take part in the two-day exercises. It said tribesmen in traditional garb and on horseback trained in the open fields in tactics aimed at stopping "enemy" incursions.

## Palestinian minister appeals for more Japanese aid

TOKYO (AFP) — Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian economic and trade minister, called on Japan Tuesday to expand economic aid for Palestinian self-rule, particularly to help beef up its peacekeeping police. "The Palestinian forces are a peacekeeping police. They are not military forces," he told a news conference. "Therefore I believe that support for the police is real support for the peace process." Japan has pledged \$200 million over two years in aid to Palestinian autonomy, by financing reconstruction of the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Qureia said he had asked Japanese leaders to extend Japan's aid pledge from two to five years to cover the transition period while Palestinian authorities face "serious challenges" in maintaining peace and economic development. He said Japanese officials had reacted favourably and that "there will be very good results."

## Kabul denies Russian border claims

KABUL (AFP) — A presidential spokesman here Tuesday refuted Russian allegations that their security troops stationed along the sensitive Afghan-Tajik international border were recently attacked from inside Afghanistan. "We are following our usual policy of non-interference," the spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said. "We consider this a globally recognised principle and we expect the same treatment from others." Mr. Morad added, Afghanistan considers the issue of Tajikistan an internal question, and it was "up to the Tajik people themselves to solve their own problems," he said. Mr. Morad said the large population of Tajik refugees still living in northern Afghanistan were afforded humanitarian assistance only, denying alleged military training or arming of the refugees. "The clashes on the border were between Tajik guerrillas on one side and Tajik and Russian soldiers on the other side," said Mr. Morad.

## Heat kills 30 in eastern Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A wave of crushing heat and humidity have claimed the lives of 30 persons in the eastern region of Port Sudan, the army newspaper Al Guwat Al Muslaha said Tuesday. The paper said the death toll reached its peak on Friday when 11 died. Temperatures in eastern Sudan have recently soared to 44 degrees Centigrade (112 Fahrenheit).

## Two Afghan drug smugglers killed in clash

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian police shot dead two Afghan drug traffickers and seriously wounded another in eastern Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The clash occurred during a security operation Monday in the mountainous Ahangaran region in Khorasan province near the Afghan border, IRNA said. A fourth Afghan drug trafficker was arrested. The security forces seized 106 kilogrammes of opium in the operation.

## Three members of Dev Sol killed in prison

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Two men and a woman convicted for being members of the extreme-left revolutionary group Dev-Sol have been found murdered in two separate prisons in Turkey, police here said Tuesday. The victims were discovered over the weekend along with a communiqué left near their bodies which said that they had been "punished" by other Dev-Sol inmates for collaborating with authorities and causing the deaths of other members of the underground organisation, police said. Two of the victims, Hasan Hulusi Kulak and Simen Aydin, were found impaled in the prison of Bayrampasa, in Istanbul, and the third, Ahmet Celal Ozkuz, was found strangled to death in the courtyard of a prison in Ankara, police added. Prison officials said a riot erupted in Bayrampasa prison after the discovery of the two bodies but it had been put down by Monday evening. Several inmates were injured during the riot which protested stiffer security measures following the two murders, the officials said.

## Turkish planes hit Kurd bases in Iraq

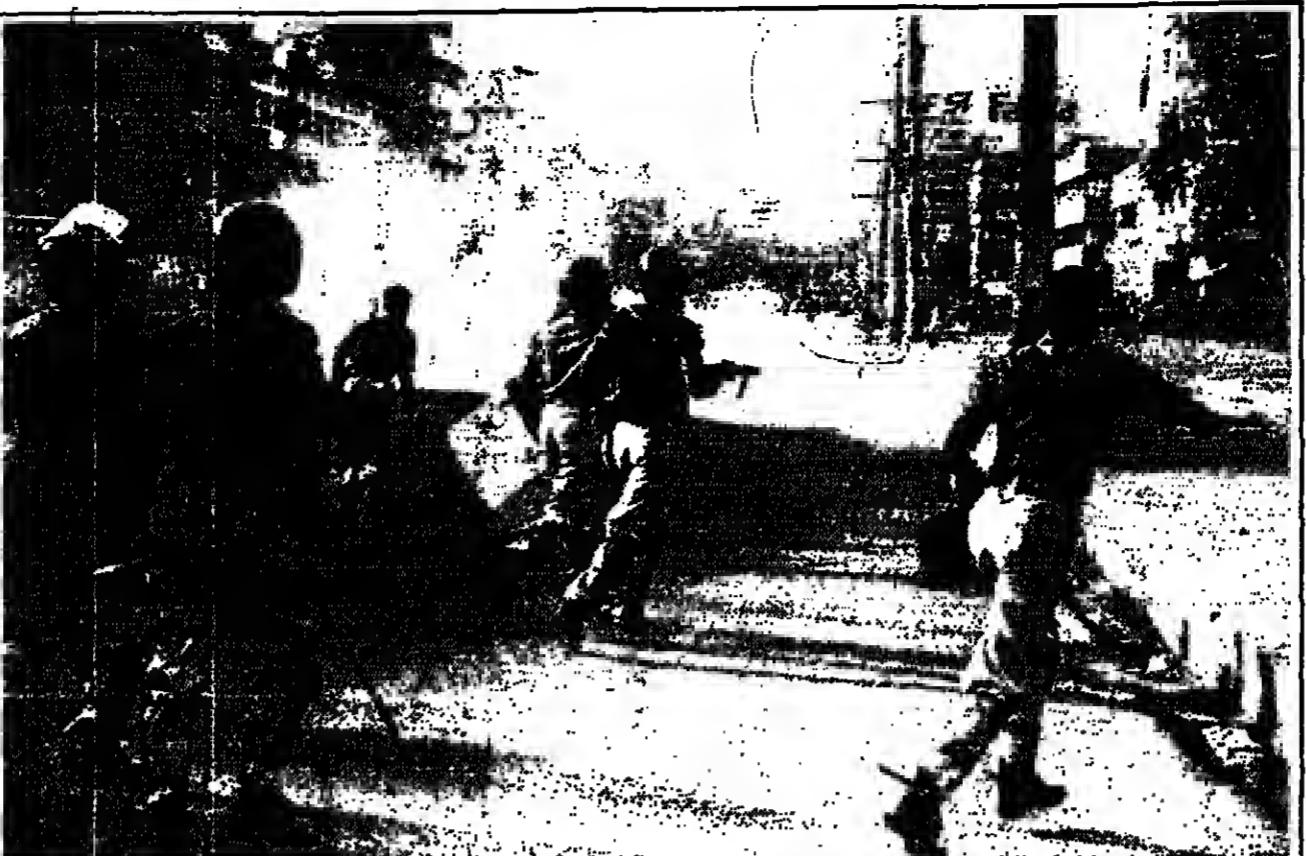
ANKARA (R) — Turkish jets struck a Kurdish guerrilla base 230 kilometres inside northern Iraq on Tuesday, the latest in a series of cross-border raids aimed at separatist forces, a military spokesman said. He said 32 planes took part in the attack on a base 60 kilometres southwest of a big Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) camp at Zaleh. All planes returned safely to base. There was no immediate estimate of casualties, pending a reconnaissance mission over the region, he said. The military said on Monday it had carried out raids on Aug. 15 and 20, killing 92 guerrillas. The latest attack marked the eighth such assault within a month.

## Bomb explodes near Turkish palace

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb exploded on Tuesday in the garden of Istanbul's Topkapi palace, causing little damage and no injuries, police said. The 15th century palace, one of Istanbul's major tourist sites, is closed on Tuesdays. On Monday an explosion outside a military recruiting station in Istanbul killed three Turks and wounded four. Last week, a Romanian man died from injuries sustained in an Aug. 12 blast at a crowded international bus station.

## Court suspends Egyptian school veil decree

CAIRO (AFP) — Government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools were dealt a blow on Tuesday when a court suspended a decree that girls must have their parents' permission to wear the veil in class. Education Minister Hussein Khatib Bahaaeddin issued the ruling which was to come into effect in the new school year but it was challenged by four Islamist lawyers representing schoolgirls' parents. The Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of the decree, saying it would later on whether it was constitutional. The lawyers said that the decree violated the dictates of Islam, and therefore unconstitutional. Al Azhar, the world's Sunni Muslim authority, also denounced the government's measure. The Egyptian constitution is based on Islamic Shari'a law, which rules that girls who reach puberty should wear the veil. But the minister said that his order did not ban the veil, but ensured that girls would not be forced to wear it by extremist teachers.



CLASHES IN DHAKA: Armed riot police on Tuesday chase supporters of deposed Bangladeshi President Hussain Muhammad Ershad who tried to hold a rally in central Dhaka. Witnesses said at least 100 people, including

policemen were injured, in violent clashes during which police fired rubber bullets and tear gas. Mr. Ershad's opposition Jatiya Party supporters blasted home-made bombs and pelted stones (AFP photo)

## 20 victims of Morocco air crash foreigners

RABAT (Agencies) — Twenty foreign travellers were among the 44 passengers and crew killed in the crash of a Royal Air Morocco aircraft on an internal flight, Sunday, officials said Tuesday.

Among the foreign victims were eight Italians, five French, four Dutch, two Kuwaitis, and one German woman identified as "Elizabet Steckel who was travelling with her 13-month-old daughter of Moroccan nationality.

The ATR 42 aircraft was on a flight to Casablanca and came down in remote terrain some 10 minutes after take-off from the southern coastal city of Agadir, killing all 40 passengers and four crew.

The crash was probably due to technical failure, state-run television reported Monday.

The aircraft's flight recorders, including the black box, had been sent to Casablanca for analysis, and would probably confirm the technical failure theory, the television said.

One of the Kuwaitis aboard was a prince and the brother of Kuwait Interior Minister Ahmad Al Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah, the television said.

Stambouli was well-known in Afghan intellectual circles for his writings in favour

## Zeroual is ready to allow opposition to contact FIS

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has moved to stem violent political strife by inviting the opposition to talk to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), though some parties are hostile to contacts with the fundamentalists.

Mr. Zeroual on Monday encouraged five parties taking part in talks with the government — all favourable to FIS participation in politics — to go and meet the leaders of the dissolved party in prison "to try and convince them to join the new talks.

Meanwhile, Abdul Kader Hachani, a senior FIS official, was reported Tuesday by the daily El Hiwar to have ended, at the request of the FIS leadership, a hunger strike he began on Aug. 3.

He began the action to press to be put on trial as quickly as possible and be considered a political prisoner, according to El Hiwar, which said that Mr. Hachani is currently in a cell with ordinary criminals.

Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas were apparently attempting to carry out their threat to harm teachers and pupils when sociology professor Rabah Stambouli, 63, was shot dead Tuesday morning as he emerged from his home at Tizi Ouzou in Kabylie, police said.

Stambouli was well-known in Afghan intellectual circles for his writings in favour

of a tolerant Islam.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has vowed

violently to disrupt the start of the new school year, is also thought responsible for hanging the deputy head of a training college in Sidi Mustapha over the weekend and for blowing up or setting fire to some 20 schools and other academic institutions.

Islamic extremists began a violent campaign that has claimed more than 3,000 lives since the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Zeroual stressed that before they could rejoin the political mainstream, FIS leaders must publicly adhere to principles which are "incontrovertible and non-

negotiable" and condemn violence, respect the constitutions, respect Islam as the state religion, allow political pluralism and democracy.

Mr. Zeroual recalled in the statement that last January he met jailed FIS leaders who had confirmed their willingness to contribute to ending the violence. Mr. Zeroual was then defence minister, a post he still holds.

FIS leaders Ali Djeddi and Abdul Kader Boukhamam, freed on February 22, had been "mandated to work for the halt to the violence," said the statement. "Six months after this measure, there has been no result."

The decision to allow encounters with FIS leaders could break the isolation surrounding the movement and return its voice to the mainstream with reports by politicians from the prison cells.

FIS leaders now communicate with followers via occasional letters sneaked out of prison or through its network of exiles in Europe and the United States. In a communiqué following the meeting, the president reiterated that he was not opposed to dialogue with the FIS — if they renounced violence.

The meeting was to continue on Wednesday. Three parties have refused to attend. Participants at the talks reported a more open attitude by authorities than in two previous encounters.

## Syrians prepare to go to the polls

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Intellectuals, affluent traders and actors are among those hoping to win seats in the Syrian parliament when a two-day poll starts on Wednesday.

Women are also hoping to build on the 21 places they currently hold in the 250-seat People's Assembly.

It will be the sixth legislative election in Syria since President Hafez Al Assad, then defence minister, seized power in November 1970. The current parliament's four-year mandate ran out on June 10.

More than seven million Syrians are registered to vote on Wednesday and Thursday.

So far 7,266 candidates are down to contest the elections, but the final number will not be known until late Tuesday.

One thing is certain — the majority of seats will again go to the National Progressive Front (NPF), a coalition of seven parties headed by Al Assad's ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party.

Of the 250 seats, 127 have been set aside for "workers and small farmers" by presidential decree, which describes such constituents as "the productive force of the country dependent on the development of the country depends."

The other 123 are reserved for other categories.

Some 8,500 polling booths have been posted in the country's 15 regions. The poll is conducted according to a first-past-the-post system, the winning candidates being those who gain the most votes on a list.

The most skillful contenders hoping to ride on the coattails of the NPF have joined "open" lists run by the coalition.

They include intellectuals, merchants and actors encouraged by the success of about 20 colleagues in the last elections in 1990 and a bitter contest has broken out among them.

Bambers proclaiming the profession of each candidate have been hung up calling for development and modernisation, even though their electoral programmes remain unclear.

Meanwhile the NPF candidates have been canvassing under the slogan of "national unity."

Women are hoping to improve on their 1990 success, when the number of female deputies increased from 18 to 21.

## Peres: Germans could serve as peacekeepers

BONN (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said here Tuesday he had no objection to German soldiers taking part in U.N. peacekeeping operations in the Middle East and backed Germany's campaign for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

"What we say soldier, we think of the war," said Mr. Peres in a reference to World War II. "But peace mission, why not?" Mr. Peres said, adding, however, that he "would prefer one million tourists to a 100,000 soldiers."

His statement was made six weeks after Germany's constitutional court ruled German armed forces had the right to operate anywhere in the world, clearing the way for the country's participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Peres called on Germans to ask themselves what contribution Germany could make to the peace process and the new order in the Middle East.

Mr. Peres, speaking after talks with German President Roman Herzog and North-Westphalia Premier Johannes Rau, called on Germany to take a more active role in world affairs.

Germany "can and must" play a role in "a world full of problems," said Mr. Peres, adding that Israel wished to see Germany gain a U.N. Security Council seat.

Mr. Peres added he was waiting for the European Union (EU), now presided by Germany, to deliver more economic aid to support the peace process.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl late Tuesday to discuss ties with the European Union (EU). He will go to Malta on Wednesday.

## 3 Somalis killed, 3 caught after ambush on U.N. force

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Indian soldiers of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia ended the hunt for the Somali killers of seven of their comrades after most of the gunmen got away, a U.N. spokesman said on Tuesday.

The two men also discussed extreme-right violence in Germany, Mr. Peres saying he was satisfied with the degree to which German political parties had turned their back on racism and xenophobia.

In a meeting with Rita Suessmuth, president on the Bundestag (the lower house of the German parliament), the Israeli foreign minister said he was confident Germany would fight Nazism, anti-Semitism and "international terrorism," a Bundestag spokesman said.

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On Monday, Maj. McDonald described the ambush as an unprovoked and carefully coordinated attack.

A number of weapons-equipped vehicles, normally used by Somali clan militia fighters, were destroyed as U.N. troops fought back the attack, Mr. McDonald said.

The incident brought to 106 the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed in Somalia since May 1993.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali recommended Friday that the United Nations immediately cut its personnel in Somalia by 1,500 and that the force eventually be cut down to 15,000. U.N. military personnel in Somalia currently number 18,761.

Dr. Ghali said the force should be reduced to 15,000 before the end of October or during November.

In the latest attack, the militias struck in territory held by the Habre Gedir clan of Mohammed Farah Aideed, the warlord who battered U.N. and American troops in Mogadishu last year.

Habre Gedir forces have been shooting and looting their way through much of southern and central Somalia since U.S. and other Western forces pulled out of the country in March.

A total of 20 peacekeepers have died since March, when the 18,700-strong Asian and African army was given a limited mandate to protect

"The move (into Somalia) was nothing but to aid the American imperialistic designs," Communist Party member E. Balanadan said. "The government should take a national consensus before depuniting Indian contingents on such missions."

I.K. Gujral of the Janata Dal Party, a former foreign minister, said the soldiers had given their lives for a cause about which "we have doubts."

"We will not pull out just because some people have been killed," said another senior official. "Our soldiers are doing a good job in Somalia and creating a good name for India."

## COLUMN

## Diana 'a loose cannon'

LONDON (AFP) — Diana, the Princess of Wales, is "a loose cannon," endangering a fragile monarchy, the British press opined Tuesday, after her public denial she had made nuisance phone calls to a millionaire friend. "The idea that there are forces... out to destabilise the Princess of Wales is, unfortunately, not a completely implausible one,"

Women are also hoping to build on the 21 places they currently hold in the 250-seat People's Assembly.

It will be the sixth legislative election in Syria since President Hafez Al Assad, then defence minister, seized power in November 1970. The current parliament's four-year mandate ran out on June 10.

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